

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIII, Issue No. 352

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 2003

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

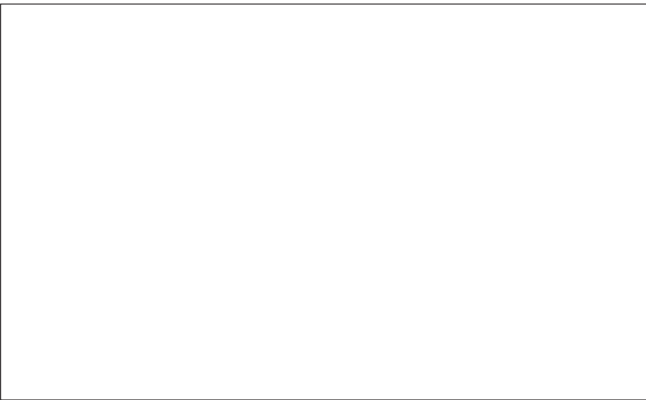
I N S I D E

Around the CNMI

Local


mcdo

WEATHER FORECAST




PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.




SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.




GUAM AND ROTA
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.




PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.




POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.




YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.






















KOSRAE
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.



CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
 Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
 Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
 London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
 Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
 Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
 New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
 Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
 Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
 Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
 Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
 Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
 Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
 Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new officers of the Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society at the Northern Marianas College pose for a souvenir shot after being inducted into office.

NMC Honor Society inducts 25 new members

The Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society marked its 1st anniversary at Northern Marianas College last April 17 with an induction ceremony for 25 new members and the Chapter's new officers.

The event gathered together students, friends, family and faculty for the induction ceremony that, for the first time, was participated in by NMC Rota students. It was followed by a buffet celebration.

Opening the ceremony, acting NMC president Antonio Deleon Guerrero congratulated the 25 new inductees, their advisors, and honorary members of the Chapter for their commitment to academics, leadership and for their role as exemplary models.

He emphasized the worth and value of responsible leadership at NMC and in the CNMI. He recognized the efforts of Frank Sobolewski, PTK advisor from the Rota campus, for the inclusion of Rota students, and advisors Doris Aldan Atalig, Debra Cabrera, Eleanor Cabrera and Angelyn Sills for making the first year a success.

When Phi Theta Kappa began at NMC in April 2003, 16 members were inducted and half of those have already graduated. PTK has currently about 40 members enrolled at NMC.

Guest speaker Catherine Cepeda shared her experience as representative to the International Phi Theta Kappa Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in early April 2003. Catherine was the first ever PTK member from Saipan to carry the NMI flag to a national PTK convention.

"Everyone was so welcoming. None have ever been here but some had parents or grandparents who fought to free Saipan and Tinian. The members of the Texas chapter, by the way, sponsored me and paid for my airfare and my hotel room, and the Hawaii and Guam chapter made sure I would spread the word that Saipan's PTK Chapter is now really a part of the Pacific region," Cepeda said.

Her motivational speech was

titled "Light the fire within," to remind and encourage all PTK members to strive hard.

The 25 honor students who were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Society before family, friends, faculty, staff, and advisors, qualified to join the group after completing 15 college credits with no D or F, and a minimum GPA of 3.5; showing evidence of leadership and community service; and two letters from NMC sponsors.

Membership increases job opportunities and members' eligibility to qualify for various scholarships at four-year colleges nationwide.

The 25 include (Saipan) Jin Am Seo, JungYeon Park; Won Gi Hwang, Tatiana A. Babauta, Leslie Cabrera, Neischangpi Satur, Myung Ah Kim, Randy Mendoza, Kasandra Santos, Seung Hee Chong, Kristine Cruz, Christina Smith, Colleen Macduff, Li Lin, Natalie Hill, Laurina Boyer, John Dax Moreno, Frances L Ziergiebel, See Leung Cabrera, Carmelita Coelho; (Rota) Janice Barcinas, Ivan Garces, Mary Villanueva, Doralynn Barcinas, and Charlene Cruz.

Following the member induction was the installation of the Chapter's 2004-05 officers. They are Shazhad Chaudhry, president; Tatiana Babauta, vice president; Cassandra Santos, recording secretary; Randy Mendoza, treasurer; Lucia Henry, PR secretary; and See Cabrera, membership secretary.

The new advisors—Sobolewski, Eleanor Cabrera and Doris Aldan Atalig—were recognized for their contributions and were awarded honorary membership in Phi Theta Kappa.

The chapter's new president, Chaudhry, or Judd to his friends, was also recognized after receiving the All-USA Academic Team Nominee Award for Beta Lambda Psi Chapter—the only student ever to receive such an award in the CNMI.

Following the impressive ceremony the assembled group socialized and celebrated at the NMC terrace.

villagomez

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 130

Published daily at 2/F Century Insurance Building,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

John Pangelinan PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Go slow on interest rates

Only Goldilocks, with her belief that everything should stay “just right,” could have expected interest rates to remain at record lows. The only questions now are how soon and how high. The Federal Reserve got closer to the answer with Tuesday’s announcement that its door now is open to modest interest rate hikes, possibly as soon as this summer.

Painful things can happen when interest rates climb. The interest-carrying bills come due for those wall-mounted television sets purchased on credit with no money down. Home mortgages with adjustable rates look less attractive. So does the ever-more-costly borrowing needed to finance record federal deficits. Those eventualities, however, were clear from the outset. As Goldilocks learned, having it “just right” often leads to problems later on.

Interest rates are a powerful tool for chilling inflation or encouraging investment in a weak economy. What the Federal Reserve Board members are now biting their nails over is an economy that might be growing too fast and encouraging inflation. That situation normally calls for higher interest rates to dampen borrowing.

Such Olympian moves also have a powerful effect on ordinary people, especially those who, through no fault of their own, can’t find a job. The Fed’s recent, brief public statements hint at concern that pushing interest rates higher could stall the necessary but delicate business of creating needed jobs. That caution should add up to a slow approach.

Though the economy created 308,000 jobs during March—the largest monthly increase in four years—the Fed’s cryptic public statement suggested that one solid month wasn’t proof that job creation had moved into high gear.

All sides are waiting for Friday’s announcement of the April job creation figure. A full three months of robust job growth, though, would be a better basis for determining that consumer demand had finally outstripped higher productivity and that rates could move higher with little damage.

The jobs lost to recession haven’t been recovered, even if temporary and part-time work is counted. That means older people long out of work will compete this summer with teenagers and college students looking for summer jobs. For most Americans, being able to have a job is the only marker of economic health that matters.

Los Angeles Times



Those coffins should not be ignored

By SUSIE LINFIELD
SPECIAL TO THE BALTIMORE SUN

“I believe that there is no person in the world that must be protected from pictures,” the Brazilian photojournalist Sebastiao Salgado, who has photographed the most impoverished people on Earth, once said. “Everything that happens in the world must be shown.”

This is a noble sentiment, but also a silly, or at least impossible, one. “Everything” that happens in the world can never be photographed, if only for practical reasons. And, clearly, there are areas of private life in which vast numbers of people would object to being photographed.

Further, even after photographs are taken, choices as to what is actually shown—by newspaper editors and television producers, museum curators and gallery owners, book publishers and, in the case of war, governments—must always be made. Even Salgado does not show “everything that happens”: Faced with the whole wide world, he chooses what to photograph and then which photographs he wants to show.

The question raised by the recent release of the photographs of flag-draped coffins from Iraq is not, then, whether the photographs should or shouldn’t be shown in some abstract sense. The more interesting question is: How do we understand the meaning of those images that we see?

According to a White House spokesman, the ban on coffin photographs protects the privacy of those families whose sons and daughters have been killed in battle. On the surface, this makes little sense, since the coffins are anonymous: No family could conceivably tell which one was “theirs.” But it’s the assumption that underlies the explanation that is more perplexing.

For war is the least private of activities; indeed, it is one of society’s defining collective acts. Men and women go to war not as individuals but as members of a group—hat is, as citizens of a nation. It is precisely the social, shared nature of this act that separates the soldier from the mercenary, and it is the social, shared nature of the decision to wage war that separates the democracy from the dictatorship.

Of course, families and friends of slain soldiers will grieve in their own ways, in their own time (which is probably forever). But to privatize—which in this case means hide—a death in battle is not an act of respect but rather of denial. It negates the very logic—the collective, democratic logic—that underlies, and can possibly justify, the soldier’s death. Asking young people to go

to war is a solemn and terrifying demand, though sometimes a necessary one, but the demand becomes an indefensible one when each is then sentenced to die a private death, and their families required to grieve in isolation.

Surprising, at least to me, is the Bush administration’s apparent lack of faith in the American public’s maturity, which this incident has shown.

Is it possible that Americans do not know that war means, first and foremost, killing? Is it possible that Americans believe that all deaths in war are incurred on “their” side, never on “ours”? (This is the political equivalent of the stork theory, according to which babies suddenly appear like nice clean packages rather than being conceived in passion and delivered in pain.) Such fairy tales can only ensure that we are less, not more, able to make intelligent decisions about the war and the astonishingly hard choices its aftermath will present.

The coffins controversy has become a partisan issue, with those opposed to the war presumably celebrating the photos’ publication and those who support it ostensibly in favor of the ban.

But I write as one who both welcomed the publication of those photos and, though troubled and tormented by the lead-up to the war, ultimately supported the invasion of Iraq and the overthrow of the Baath Party. This is not because I believed Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction; actually, I had no idea if he did or didn’t, and from what I could tell no one else did, either.

It is because I had become convinced that Saddam’s regime of sadistic terror was both unique and so impregnable that—unlike, say, in Zimbabwe, China, Iran or most other dictatorships—there was no possibility for an organic, democratic opposition to emerge. (The opposition could be found only in torture jails, graves or exile.)

Anyone who supported the war, even if reluctantly, has more of an obligation to look at the photographs of coffins than those who opposed it. We are also more obliged to look at the photographs, many unbearable but all undeniable, of the many Iraqi civilians who have been mutilated and killed.

It is not always unconscionable to wage war. But it is always unconscionable to wage war while refusing to be aware of, or take responsibility for, its consequences.

And that first consequence isn’t truth, as is so often stated, but the agony of loss, which sometimes presents itself in flag-draped coffins.

Linfield is the acting director of the Cultural Reporting and Criticism Program at New York University.

ON MY MIND

By RUTH L. TIGHE

One of the disadvantages of “more”—in this case, more people, more hotels, more paved streets, more cars on the road, more stores and more goods in the stores—was highlighted earlier this week when an outspoken fisherman complained that all the “rights” he’d once been entitled to are being taken away from him. “I can’t use the nets I want to anymore, I can’t fish where I want to anymore, I’m not supposed to take my truck down on the sand to unload my picnic table, and now you’re telling me I’m going to have to show an ID card to go fishing at Wing Beach?” he protested.

Under discussion was a proposal to ban not only cars but perhaps also people from Wing Beach in order to protect turtles, the Wing Beach being a major nesting site. The Coastal Resource Management agencies are exploring turtle-protection alternatives for the area and conducted their second public forum on Wednesday of this past week at the Tanapag social hall. While the use of some type of bollard along the road and parking restrictions have already received public support, the issue of whether to close the beach entirely, or open it only seasonally, and if so, to whom, was a major issue at Wednesday’s session. And it is this issue to which the fisherman took exception.

The fisherman, whose name I did not catch, is right, of course. He, and others like him, have lost many freedoms—to fish where and how they wanted, to take whatever they could catch, to drive all over the beach—that were still being taken for granted perhaps as recently as five to 10 years ago. The problem is that many more people are now on island—the population has more than tripled in the last 20 years—and many of them have also taken advantage of those freedoms. As a result, harvests are now much thinner.

The CNMI is having to play “catch-up” in its attempt to restore the bounty that once was. The situation is not unique to the CNMI, nor are the strategies that agencies such as the CRMO, the Division of Environmental Quality, the Department of Natural Resources and its Division of Fish and Wildlife have begun to employ to foster re-establishment of that bountifulness. The problem is that in doing so, all may be deprived, at least in the short term, of “freedoms” they once had, and indeed, some of those “freedoms” may never be regained in their original form.

That is the price of “more.” And of course, the issue is how much “more” can the CNMI absorb before all of the fisherman’s “freedoms” are lost altogether.

Not all that many people were in evidence at NMC’s land grant division the day I attended its open house last week—which is a pity—though attendance the previous day was reportedly much bet-

A fitting tribute to greatest generation

Memorials are by their nature silent. So they must “say” everything they wish to communicate through architectural design and artistry.

The message of the new National World War II Memorial, just opened on the Mall in Washington, is eloquent and profound. It is a voice of solemn celebration, which will be heard long after the last American who participated in the war has passed on.

Today, amid a noisy debate about remembering those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan—should their flag-draped coffins be photographed; should their names be read aloud on ABC’s “Nightline”?—the World War II Memorial offers a silent reminder that monuments to conflict aren’t just remembrances for the dead, but also a commemoration of the heroism and sacrifice of the survivors and of the nation as a whole.

So the World War II Memorial stands in sharp contrast to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, just a few hundred yards away. “The Wall,” black and mournful and below ground, is essentially a tombstone for the 58,000 killed in Vietnam. There’s little acknowledgment of the 2.64 million Americans who went to Vietnam and came home alive.

The World War II Memorial, on the other hand, offers inscriptions of inspirational words from Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower and other wartime heroes. Key battles, from the famous—D-Day, Midway—to the obscure—Buna, the Murmansk Run—are remembered, chiseled in this oval garden of stone. And

ter. Not only were there enthusiastic and articulate staff on hand to explain the various programs under way at NMC’s Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, or CREES, as it’s called, but there were graphic displays as well—and food!

Master mechanic Lee Bowen demonstrated the wood chipper he had designed using an old truck engine for power; Dr. Smith, biologist on the staff, described the making of compost by mixing green waste wood chips and sewage sludge—a process that, according to Steve Hiney, CUC’s Solid Waste Manager, will be starting up as soon as its new chipper arrives and is operational. Smith spoke, as well, about the possibilities of a portable chipper that could be taken to sites where clearing was being done, providing mulch on the spot.

Also demonstrated was a ridge-making plow Bowen had contrived. CREES advocates ridge planting to prevent the drowning of seedlings in CNMI’s cloudbursts. Other staff spoke knowledgeably about the scarlet gourd control program—displaying the kind of insect that has been brought in to slow its growth—the melon fly program and the fly traps CREES has designed to capture them, the pineapple growing experiments, and the ongoing effort to find a type of corn that can survive the CNMI’s growing conditions. CREES, the staff noted, offers assistance and support to all interested and/or involved in agriculture and aquaculture, but it does not sell its products in order not to compete with the private sector.

Ross Manglona, Saipan aquaculture staffer, explained the tilapia and shrimp aquaculture projects, noting that the wastewater from the tanks is used to water the agriculture station’s plants. To prove their point, staff cooked and served tilapia and corn, accompanied by two different breadfruit dishes to those in attendance—it was all most tasty!

So that more can benefit, perhaps the next open house can be scheduled on a weekend rather than mid-week....

A fitting tribute to greatest generation

Speaking of food, another eating place that deserves special mention is Mugen’s Café Waft, in Tanapag. It sits on a tiny beach fronting the lagoon, amid a scattering of coconut trees—a perfect tropical setting. One dines here al fresco, that is, out in the open, on a partly sheltered patio. Makes for a very picturesque place from which to watch the sunset. It opens at 3pm everyday except Sunday.

The problem is that, charming though it is, it is off the beaten track, and therefore hard to find. So herewith the directions: Take Middle Road to Tanapag Village. Turn left at the Mobil station, just north of Tanapag Elementary School. Follow the paved road west (toward the lagoon) until it dead-ends, then turn left. You will pass White Coconut Computer Services on the right, (beach side), then a large, fenced, white house. Just beyond the white house is a narrow coral road. Turn right (toward the lagoon) onto it and you will soon come to Mugen’s, a single-story peach-colored building on your right. The entrance is on the beach side.

Short takes:

There’s something wrong with the idea of using government land to house poker parlors that the governor wants out of the villages, as House Speaker Benigno Fitial has said he will work with the governor on doing. Why should public land be used to subsidize/sup-

bas relief images recall other struggles, including the struggle to uphold morale and war production on the home front. By reminding us that the war united Americans in common cause, the memorial offers something for everybody.

Which is why so many will visit. And among the visitors, in their time that remains, will be those who were Over There way back when. Lucille Humphreys volunteered for the Women’s Army Corps in 1943; she did her bit in Australia and then the Philippines. She’s 88 now, in a wheelchair, but when she exclaims, “I’m a veteran!” one hears the aged echo of a strong will—to serve her country in time of need and then, decades later, to witness the memorial to that service.

Former presidential candidate Bob Dole, gnarled and scarred from grievous wounds suffered in Italy’s Po Valley 60 years ago, says of his comrades, male and female, “It’s called the greatest generation, but now, it’s the disappearing generation.”

And so the World War II Memorial will speak for all of them—sometimes in mysterious ways. On Saturday, I ran into Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif., who pointed me to one of the waterfalls at the site. “Listen,” he said. “A vet told me that, if you stand here long enough, the noise of the water sounds like mortar rounds being fired.” And that’s the truth; by some acoustical fluke, one hears therumble of artillery. Dreier added that one of his staffers, recently back from a tour of duty in Baghdad, also recognized the sound of incoming shells. No doubt additional lore and legend will emerge, as more people visit, noticing more quirks, coincidences, maybe even a miracle.

port poker parlors? There isn’t all that much public land available to begin with. It would make a lot more sense, it seems to me, to use private land for the poker parlors. If people don’t want the poker parlors on their land, that’s their prerogative—and maybe that will help send the message that poker parlors are not wanted. If people want the income, that also is their prerogative. But it seems hypocritical to decry the presence of poker parlors, and then offer to lease to them—at what is bound to be far less than on-going commercial rates—some of Saipan’s increasingly scarce public land.

Cinta Kaipat, president of the United Northern Mariana Islanders Association, sent me a site to archived pictures of pre-eruption Pagan, including one that shows her father, Francisco Borja Kaipat, and Captain Mark Moses, head of the U.S. Air Force “Prime Beef Team,” which built Pagan’s dispensary and dirt airstrip, at the grand opening of the Pagan Dispensary in 1971. “Of course, the Dispensary is now buried in lava mud and the airstrip is half covered by lava,” she notes. The url is http://libweb.hawaii.edu/ttp/ttp_https/2623.html. #

The DEQ and CRM summer internship program, announced two weeks ago, offers a variety of rather well-paid positions to eligible college students. The program is supported by grant monies, but nevertheless, it will take a lot of effort on the part of regular staff to carry it out, and staff of both agencies are to be commended for their willingness to take on the additional work load.

On the other hand, the bill introduced by Senate President Joaquin G. Adriano that would relieve tourists of the requirement to wear helmets while on scooters or motorcycles deserves nothing but scorn. Lack of helmets has been proved to be a contributing cause in serious motorcycle accident injuries. Isn’t tourist safety more important than the alleged hassle tourists may feel when require to don helmets?

It might behoove those reporting on the attempts to legislate payment to Tony Pellegrino’s Marine Revitalization Corp. to note that it is, in fact, not a “bail-out.” The payment terms were arrived at through a settlement agreement negotiated by the parties themselves. In other words, the CNMI agreed to the terms of the settlement, and thus the CNMI is obligated to meet those terms. Of course, whether it should be a priority or not, given the CNMI’s many other obligations, is a different question.

I’m sure it had nothing to do with the fact that I had said Tinian Dynasty could attract more people if it offered “name” shows that caged fighting was featured there over the Tinian Fiesta weekend. Apparently that, too, attracted people, but what a pity that publicists there have decided to opt for violence as entertainment, rather than music, song and dance. While it is true that some song now has also succumbed to violence, one would hope that Tinian’s Dynasty—should it offer it—would focus on more civilized offerings.

The writer is a librarian by profession, and a longterm resident of the CNMI. To contact her, send her email to ruth.tighe@saipan.com.

By JAMES P. PINKERTON
Special to Newsday

Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.



Indeed, the memorial is destined to be a hub for the living, as well as the dead, because it’s designed to be one part plaza, one part shallow amphitheater. Whereas the Washington Monument, for example, sits in solitary majesty atop its hillock, too austere and august to be a place for gatherings, the World War II Memorial provides a forum for citizens. The pillars and pavilions that surround the site in a semicircle give the central space a cozy feeling; the memorial will prove to be a popular venue for speeches, music, strolling and demonstrating.

But everyone who comes here, for whatever purpose, will be reminded of past events. The words of Douglas MacArthur—speaking after Japan had signed the surrender documents in 1945—are there for all to see: “Today the guns are silent. A great tragedy has ended. A great victory has been won.” That’s a fitting encapsulation of this memorial: a clarion of resolve, albeit tinged with regret. It will speak to us, always.

3 men arrested for alleged assault

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Authorities arrested Monday night three men who have been a subject of intensive investigations by law enforcers since November 2003 when a 43-year-old man lodged a complaint against them.

Police department spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas Jr. said Martin F. Borja, 38; Chris W. Taimanglo, 20; and William M. Faisao, 19, were arrested based on the arrest warrants issued against them by Judge Juan Lizama.

Blas said COPPS officers Jesse Seman and Sandy Hambros arrested the three suspects in connection with a Nov. 16, 2003, assault case lodged by Saburo Stewart, 43.

Lizama issued the warrants after the police released the results of its investigation on the case. The officers immediately served the warrants to the suspects. All three were brought to the Adult Correctional facility in Susupe where they were booked and detained pending bail hearing.

The investigation report showed that the police department received a call for assistance around 1:28am of Nov. 16, 2003, due to a disturbance in the house of Stewart in Kagman III area. Medics were also dispatched due to injuries sustained by the victim.

According to the report, the victim and two of the three suspects were involved in a fight outside the victim's house. During the squabble, the suspects used rocks, a machete, and a baseball bat to allegedly attack the victim, causing serious injuries.

Stewart reportedly sustained lacerations on the back, legs, and arms, as well as other cuts and bruises on his body.

After the investigation, probers determined the culpability of the three suspects and asked that arrest warrants be issued against them.

The suspects are now facing disturbing the peace, assault and battery, assault with dangerous weapons, and criminal mischief charges.

Taiwanese boat seized off New Caledonia

A Taiwanese fishing boat has been intercepted south of New Caledonia for fishing illegally.

The French high commission in the New Caledonia capitol of Noumea says the ship had been spotted by a French surveillance aircraft and an inspection showed it carried dozens of tons of fresh and frozen fish.

The interception comes just days after the captain of another Taiwanese fishing boat was jailed for six months and fined almost US\$200,000 for fishing illegally. (RNZI/PIR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION

Saipan Southern High School students gather around Gov. Juan N. Babauta during the chief executive's recent visit at the campus, in line with the administration's education program. Babauta has been putting emphasis on public education as an important tool in the eventual recovery of the local economy.

MPLA board in limbo due to lack of quorum

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The lack of a quorum on the Board of Directors of the Marianas Public Lands Authority is stymieing efforts to move ahead on critical projects, including 36 new offers for land compensation that require the board's approval.

Only two members remain on the Board—chairperson, Ana Demapan-Castro and vice chairman Manny Villagomez—following the resignation of a member and term expiration of another.

Member Pedro M. Atalig resigned from the board effective Jan. 1, 2004, while member

Pedro Igitol's term expired on Dec. 31, 2003.

The board is composed of five seats, with one representative each from Tinian and Rota and three from Saipan. The CNMI Constitution also provides that one of the directors should be of Carolinian descent, while another should represent women.

At the moment, Demapan-Castro represents Saipan and the women's sector, while Villagomez represents Tinian. This means nobody is representing Rota, the Carolinians, and two seats for Saipan.

This, even as the MPLA has already readied 36 new offers for land compensation that re-

quire the board's approval.

"We have to get the board's approval before we can make the offer but the board can't possibly meet right now for lack of quorum," said MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider.

The board normally holds a regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month.

Hofschneider said that some names have been floated for appointment by the governor to the board. He declined to identify them.

Meantime, he said that 38 landowners have accepted the MPLA's initial offers and are like likely to get their compensation within the month.

"Once Finance puts the

money in MPLA's special account, we can start cutting checks," he said.

Hofschneider said that MPLA is offering "just and fair" compensation to landowners.

The MPLA board approved 75 folders for immediate land compensation last month. This came soon after the CNMI government floated a \$40-million bond, with the proceeds to be used primarily to settle the longstanding land claims by individuals against the government. The first batch of claims included acquisition of rights-of-way.

The Land Compensation Act mandates the government to prioritize the payment for lands used for rights-of-way, then

ponding basins, and later wetlands and other claims.

The payment to landowners is based on the valuation at the time of taking by the Commonwealth.

The MPLA has listed some 120 eligible land claimants in the CNMI.

Of the \$40-million bond, only about \$27 million will be used for land compensation, as \$11 million has been allotted to fund a pending prison project. The bond's Hawaii-based underwriter also deducted \$1.5 million from the total amount for cost of the bond issuance.

The government is given 30 years to pay off the loan at an annual interest of 6.75 percent.

**cars unlimited
pls. pick up neg**

Good Housekeeping

Let the sun shine in

By JIM SHEA
THE HARTFORD COURANT

Sunroom.

If the word conjures up images of an architectural afterthought, of a long span of smoked, curved glass that is too hot to inhabit in summer and too cold to endure in winter, then it might be time to re-conjure.

Today's sunrooms not only come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, they also have evolved into comfortable year-round living spaces.

Virginia and Richard Roberts of Salem, Conn., added a "Victorian" conservatory to their home two years ago and couldn't be happier with the light and airy space.

"We use this room every day, even in the winter," Virginia says. "The only time we didn't use it this winter was when we had that sub-zero week. We could have made it warm enough, but the heat (electric baseboard) would have been running constantly."

"Usually we just leave the sliding doors (to the main house) open and set the heat at 60 degrees, which is very comfortable."

The modern sunroom is an offspring of the greenhouse. The main difference is in the glass. While the greenhouse relies on standard glass, which has little, if any, insulating ability, today's sunrooms are fashioned from materials that deflect and retain heat, insulate, cut down on glare, block UV rays and even self-clean.

For the Roberts' conservatory, something called "MC2 Wonderglass," developed by Four Seasons Sunrooms, was used.

"Wonderglass keeps a room cooler in summer and warmer in winter," says Matt Ostrowski of Norwich, Conn.-based Creative Enclosures, which designed and constructed the Roberts conservatory.

Basically this type of glass works by reflecting and deflecting, so it keeps the heat from the sun out in summer while keeping home-generated heat inside in winter.

The sunroom shell also has changed. The exteriors often are constructed of lightweight aluminum with vinyl cladding, while the interior



THE HARTFORD COURANT

A recent snowfall makes a day in the conservatory pleasant for the Roberts family of Salem, Conn. "You can sit here and look out at the hillside, and you feel like you're in Colorado," Richard Roberts says.



THE HARTFORD COURANT

Virginia Roberts, left, her husband, Richard, and their daughter Megan, 16, enjoy a quiet afternoon with their cat in their English-conservatory-style sunroom, which they had built onto the back of their Salem, Conn., home.

they seldom used the backyard deck, which was on the north side. "It sat in the shadows most of the day and was usually cold back there," Virginia says.

Eventually the Roberts got together with Ostrowski at Creative Design.

Initially, they were just going to add a standard Four Seasons "Victorian" conservatory, but as they became more involved, they decided to expand it on both sides to increase its size.

The entire construction took about two months.

"My mother (who lives with the family) likes to come out here and read," Virginia says. "My daughters have their parties out here, and at Christmas, we put a second tree here. I like to come sit out here when it's raining. It's very relaxing."

Richard says he is partial to the snow. "When it's snowing, you can sit here

and look out at the hillside, and you feel like you're in Colorado," he says.

As for maintenance, the Robertses says they wash the glass once or twice a year, but definitely after the winter. The job is done with mops, squeegees and a power washer.

In terms of durability, the Robertses say they had one small leak early on, but that was repaired quickly.

Nor have they had any problem with another early concern: summer heat.

"It really doesn't get that hot out here," Virginia says. "We open the windows and put on the fan, or we just leave the sliding door open and use the air conditioning."

Although the Roberts conservatory serves as a kind of 365-days-a-year backyard patio, sunrooms can be used for everything from great rooms to kitchens to dining rooms to coverings for swimming pools.

Finding the right sunroom is a matter of deciding what you are looking for and how much you want to spend, and then finding the dealer who can best meet your needs.

The sunroom might not cure cabin fever or eliminate the need for a winter vacation, but outside of a plane ticket south, it could be the next-best thing.

A different kitchen timer

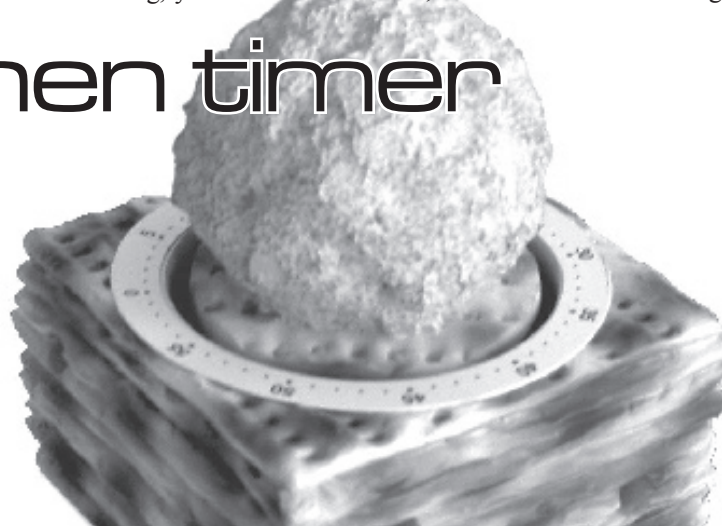
By JURA KONCIUS
THE WASHINGTON POST

Why is this kitchen timer different from all others? Well, how often do you see one that looks like a matzoh ball?

Sam Kugler, proprietor of Kugler's Home Fashions in Silver Spring, Md., says he's long been on the lookout for the perfect hostess gift for Passover season, which this year begins on April 5.

"Everybody already has seder plates and wine goblets," says Kugler, whose store carries linens, housewares and home accessories, many at close-out prices. "And who wants to spend \$100?" So he flipped when he found a line of kitchenwares with a matzoh motif, including aprons (\$18.99) oven mitts (\$3.99) and the timer (\$16.99), which looks like a stack of matzohs with a matzoh ball on top.

Available at Kugler's Home Fashions (301-593-8905 at www.kuglers.com).



THIS IS A HAMMER

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2004 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I have recently noticed that there is a buzzing sound coming from my electrical box. It does not last long (a minute or so), but it seems to happen while it is cold and my furnace is running. I hear this buzz off and on. Could one of the circuits be loose? Should I be concerned? What do you recommend?—**Buzz in Pueblo, Colo.**

A: That buzzing sound may be nothing, but it definitely needs checking out because of its location—in the circuit box—and because of when it occurs—when a major appliance, in this case the furnace, is running.

First, a little basic information on the circuit box, or main service panel. This square, gray, unassuming box is the key component in your home's electrical system. Power sent by the electric company is fed directly to the service panel through two 120-volt wires and one grounded, neutral wire. The service panel's job is to distribute that electricity throughout the home using several circuits, each of which leads to a number of power outlets, light switches, appliances and so on. The circuits run through the house and then circle back to the service panel, which contains a main circuit wire that returns the electrical current to a neutral service line and out to the transformer on the utility pole nearest your house.

Resetting the breaker to which the furnace's circuit is attached probably won't stop the buzzing, especially if there is a loose wire connection somewhere. The loose connection could be in the service panel, in or near the furnace's control panel, or anywhere along the line.

If a loose connection is in the furnace's control panel, turning off power to the circuit and inspecting the wire connections within the furnace panel is one option. However, the furnace manufacturer might prefer that you didn't do that, and opening the panel may invalidate any warranty on the appliance. It's also not safe for do-it-yourselfers with little or no electrical repair experience.

If a loose connection is in the service panel, you shouldn't even consider looking for it. There are 240 volts of electricity being delivered to that circuit box, something you don't want to get close to.

Therefore, I recommend calling a licensed electrician to come and inspect the box, the furnace and the circuit between them. The problem may only take a professional a minute or two to fix, but it's worth the cost when safety is an issue.

HOME TIP

Service panels providing 100 amps of power to home circuits are now standard in wiring systems of new homes. For large homes with several major appliances, a 150-amp service panel can be installed.

Send questions or home repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Business

Two great books for homeowners

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2004 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

This spring’s book releases hold much information for homeowners and those shopping for a house. Two in particular are worth a look.

Plumbing, insulation, heating and structural elements are just a few of the subjects addressed in “Inspecting a House” (Dearborn Trade Publishing). Alan Carson and Robert Dunlop have been home inspectors for 25 years, and this new release reveals their depth of knowledge. This book is invaluable for several reasons: For the first-time homebuyer, a little knowledge can help avoid costly mistakes; and for current

owners, a do-it-yourself inspection can uncover potential maintenance and repair issues before they really become a problem. Inspections prior to home renovations are also important in order to learn the amount of work that will actually be required.

The authors recommend hiring a professional inspector when purchasing or renovating a home. “Spending a few hundred dollars for a home inspection is well worth the expense when faced with having to replace an inadequate electrical system or a worn-out roof that could have been detected before the home was purchased,” says Carson. Clean illustrations and clear instructions

make this an essential reference, and at \$17.95, it’s worth the small expense.

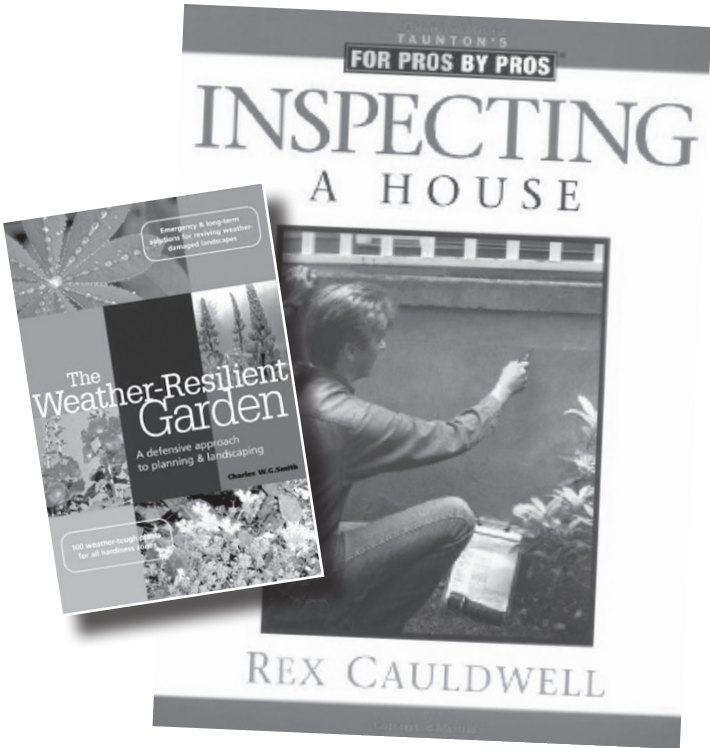
For homeowners looking to give their yards a facelift, or just improve a troublesome garden, give “The Weather-Resilient Garden” (Storey Publishing, \$19.95) a try. Author Charles W.G. Smith offers a defensive approach to planning, planting and growing a hardy garden, from soil improvement to protecting fully grown plants from the hazards of wind, rain, drought, floods or ice. Region-specific guidelines are given, as well as a profile of 100 weather-tough plants, many of which both protect other plants and prevent soil erosion.

Weather is always doing its best

to hinder one’s best gardening efforts; fortunately, there’s a section on healing the garden after bad weather strikes, providing advice on solving damage from 11 different weather conditions for many types of plants and trees.

Henry Mitchell once wrote, “By the time one is 80, it is said, there is no longer a tug of war in the garden. ... All at last is in balance and serene. The gardener is usually dead, of course.” With this book in hand, gardeners may win the tug-of-war a little earlier.

Send questions or home repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.



PREP: 15 minutes plus cooling and frosting
BAKE: about 20 minutes
MAKES: 2 dozen cupcakes

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine (1 1/2 sticks), softened
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs
- Frosting

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Line twenty-four 2 1/2-inch muffin-pan cups with fluted paper liners.
 2. In large bowl, with mixer at low speed (with heavy-duty mixer, use whisk attachment; otherwise, cupcakes will not rise properly when baked), mix flour, sugar, baking powder and salt until combined. Add butter, milk, vanilla and eggs, and beat just until blended. Increase speed to high; beat 1 to 2 minutes or until creamy, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula.
 3. Spoon batter into muffin-pan cups. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until cupcakes are golden brown and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Immediately remove cupcakes from pans and cool completely on wire rack.
 4. When cupcakes are cool, prepare choice of frosting and use to frost cupcakes.
 - **Each cupcake:** About 155 calories, 2 g protein, 21 g carbohydrate, 7 g total fat (4 g saturated), 0 g fiber, 44 mg cholesterol, 210 mg sodium.
- You can now find Good Housekeeping cookware, bakeware and kitchen tools at Home Shopping Network (hsn.com) and other retailers. (2004 Hearst Communications, Inc.)

CTSI

Weekly Beautips

By LIGAYA ALMODIEL

Ligaya Almodiel may be contacted at 233-SKIN or log on to www.ksinternational.biz.



Good sleep for good skin

No amount of skin care will compensate for a tired body and one of the first places to reflect this lack of enough zzzzzs is your skin. Most of us need at least 6 hours sleep to function properly. However, the ideal amount of sleep to look wide-eyed, youthful and ready to go is about 8 hours sleep, or more, depending on the individual. To induce a good nights sleep be sure your bedroom is cool enough as a reduced body temperature signals the brain to shift into sleep.

Mother’s Day

I hate my mother



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
There are an estimated 82.5 million mothers of all ages in the United States.

I hate my mother. I hate her that every night I pray that I would not be like her. I made a vow that I will do things differently, by heart, by words, and by deed.

Every little thing she does, sends an electric animosity in my being, from my toes to my head. Every fiber of my being is distressed by the fact that I have a weakling and a martyred woman for a mother.

My mother stands only five feet tall. She is frail, with eyes that mutely speak of a thousand experiences I know I will never know of nor learn.

Her hands move swiftly, smoothing away the wrinkles on my dress, combing away the knots in my hair, and soothing broken bones and wounds I would acquire in a day.

She gets up at 6am. Prepares food for the table, sweeps the rooms, and wakes up everybody who, in less than 30 minutes, are all out of the house, leaving her all alone again as she complete her other chores.

She doesn’t earn a single cent from all these hard work. She never complains and never sees wrong in anything she does. She bears the brunt of her children’s misdeeds and cries the pain away alone in her room, with us not knowing why.

She lies, she begs, she pleads. She smiles, she laughs, she cries, all for the love of her children. Her feet move as fast as her hands, doing her tasks while her mind swirl of a thousand other things that need to be done.

As a child, I never tried to know the pain she feels, the battles she had to win, and the love

she tries to give. I ran away from her embraces, her kisses, but her eyes follow me everywhere I go like a curse hounding me.

I escaped her endless questioning and evaded her worries. I shunned her from my life as I grew older, thinking I don’t need her anymore. I flapped my wings, flew to places she will never find me.

But even without telling her, she knows. Her boundless love saw the truth, gathered the facts, but she never ever accused me. She understands my faults, she weeps for the dead, she triumphs for small victories, but she never claims credit for the good things she did.

I shoved her out of my life and took` her in again. I left her protective wings but she persistently comes back to shelter me. I refused her words, declined her advises, but in the moment of grief, I hear her echoes of wisdom. I claimed victory from the battles she won and left her in her solitude.

She cut me loose, taught me to fly. Her litany of tales forgotten, her ashen hair growing long, but as cold as steel, her eyes still fiery from the battles that she still has to win.

But at the dusk of my life, in my moments of defeat, I run to her to soothe my weary mind. She holds out a hand, sing me a song, and stands strong for me to hold on to.

In my darkest moments, she holds out a hand to guide me, carry a torch to light my path, and tosses an anchor to save me from drowning in grief.

Her heart cries out as her prayers silently go

to God above. She summons strength in times of agony and be the pillar to protect me.

She is a woman so easy to manipulate, a vacuum that takes in all the dirt, and an item that can be discarded in a snap. But she’s not easy to fight with, not easy to forget, and most of all, she won’t easily give up the people she loves.

She had her battles and she won most of them. But the battle she lost is the battles she opted to give up.

Like a frightened child, I pray to God that I won’t see the day that when I grapple for that usual hand, there would be none. The fiery eyes won’t be there to look at me, and the litany of tales would just be a resounding echo.

I hate my mother. I hate it that it hurts so much knowing that she won’t be here forever. For free, she did everything for me. Without asking for anything in return she guided me, nurtured me and loved me. And what did I do in return? Escape from her, run away from her knowing that her love should be savored to the last drop.

I hate my mother and I pray to God that I won’t be like her. That when the time comes, leaving won’t be hard and few hearts would be broken. I hate my mother that I wished she never taught me the things she knows. But it’s too late. I know them by heart, do them without thinking, and do it without regrets.

I should know. I am after all my mother’s daughter. *(Edith G. Alejandro)*

CIC

FITIAL



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

On average, women can expect to have two children in their lifetime.

Mothers by the numbers

The first Mother's Day observance was a church service in 1908 requested by Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, to honor her deceased mother. Jarvis, at an early age, had heard her mother express hope that a day to commemorate all mothers would be established. Her mother had also expressed the sentiment that there were many days dedicated to men but none for mothers. Two years after her mother's death, Jarvis and friends began a letter-writing campaign to declare a national Mother's Day observance to honor mothers. In 1914, Congress passed legislation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

How Many Mothers

82.5 million—Estimated number of mothers of all ages in the United States.

68 percent—Percentage of women in Mississippi, ages 15 to 44, who are mothers. This is among the highest rates among states. The national average is 56 percent.

82 percent—Percentage of women 40-to-44 years old who are mothers. In 1976, 90 percent of women in that age group were mothers.

How Many Children

Only about 10 percent of women today end their child-bearing years with four or more children. That compares with 36 percent in 1976.

2—Average number of children that women today can expect to have in their lifetime.

3—Average number of children that women in Utah and Alaska can expect to have in their lifetime. These two states top the nation in average births.

Flowers

23,870—Number of florists nationwide in 2001. The florists' 125,116 employees will be especially busy selling bouquets for Mother's Day.

The flowers you buy mom probably were grown in California or Colombia. Among 36 surveyed states, California was the leading provider of cut flowers in 2002, accounting for more than two-thirds of the domestic production (\$279 million out of \$410 million) in those states. Meanwhile, the value of U.S. imports of cut flowers and fresh flower buds in 2003 from Colombia, the leading foreign supplier to the United States, was \$344 million.

New Moms

4.0 million—Number of women who have babies each

year. Of this number, about 425,000 are teens ages 15 to 19, and more than 100,000 are age 40 or over.

25.1—Average age of women when they give birth for the first time. This is a U.S. record high. The average age has risen nearly four years since 1970.

40 percent—Percentage of births annually that are the mother's first. Another 32 percent are the second-born; 17 percent, third; and 11 percent, fourth or more.

35,000—Number of births each year attended by physicians, midwives or others that do not occur in hospitals.

1-in-32—The odds of a woman delivering twins. Her odds of having triplets or other multiple births was approximately 1-in-540.

August—The most popular month in which to have a baby, with 359,000 births taking place that month in 2002. July, with 358,000, was just a shade behind.

Tuesday—The most popular day of the week in which to have a baby, with an average of almost 13,000 births taking place on Tuesdays during 2002.

Working Moms

55 percent—Percentage of mothers in the labor force with infant children in 2002, down from a record 59 percent in 1998. This marks the first significant decline in this rate since the Census Bureau began calculating this measure in 1976. In that year, 31 percent of mothers with infants were in the labor force.

63 percent—Percentage of college-educated women in the labor force with infant children.

Among mothers between 15 and 44 who do not have infants, 72 percent are in the labor force.

More than 67,000—Number of day-care centers across the country in 2001. Many mothers turn t these centers to help juggle motherhood and career.

About 2 million—Among more than 10 million preschoolers, the number who were primarily cared for in a day-care center during the bulk of their mother's working hours.

Single Moms

10 million—The number of single mothers living with children under 18, up from 3 million in 1970.

mayors office

I'm not my daughter's only mother

By NANCY SHUTE

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—I'm planning to spend this Mother's Day in the most delightful way possible—playing with my 11-month-old daughter. Being a mother is a greater joy than I ever imagined, but I've known for a while that this was a day I was going to share. So last week, I carefully picked out Mother's Day cards and put them in the mail, not just to my own mother and my husband's, but also to my daughter's birth mother and her two birth grandmothers.

Yes, I know my daughter's birth mother. Not only that, we e-mail each other regularly, and she knows I'm writing this article. My husband and I became parents last May through "open adoption," in which birth parents and adoptive parents meet and maintain some form of contact after the child is born. Although it's the dominant form of domestic adoption, having in the past few decades supplanted the old system of "closed" adoption, in which the identities of all parties were kept secret, open adoption is still very much a work in progress. It's often misunderstood, as shown most recently, and blatantly, by the furor over the overhyped promotions for an April 30 ABC "20/20" special about a pregnant 16-year-old choosing among several couples who hoped to adopt her baby.

The network billed this as "the ultimate reality show." "Five couples desperate to adopt. ... Four will lose. One will get the baby of their dreams." After a blast of criticism, ABC toned down the promos. But days later, its online message boards still bristled. Much of the ire, though, wasn't directed at ABC. It was directed at the birth mother. "I was really disgusted by the 16-year-old girl who wanted all the control, but none of the responsibility for her baby's life," one viewer wrote. "If I were to adopt, I would go to a foreign country for a child ... because I don't want my child's birth mother to be a permanent part of our life and making judgments on our parenting."

This kind of anger, I think, arises from a deep societal ambivalence about women who place children for adoption. Mothers, many people think, should love their children above all else. So a mother who would choose to give up her child must be selfish, irresponsible, or just plain bad.

I'm sure there are bad birth mothers out there, but in the many conversations I've had with women who give up their babies for adoption, I've found



Frederick Leighton's *Mother and Child* (1864-65). Leighton was a hugely successful and popular Victorian painter and sculptor of the highest order. He was the first English painter to be given a peerage.

them to be deeply devoted to their children. They know what they want for their babies, and struggle with the bitter realization that they can't provide it. They wrestle with the shame of feeling that they've failed their children, and endure pressure from friends and relatives. Those who decide to go ahead with adoption suffer for the choice, and suffer deeply.

There is, unfortunately, a lot of sleaze in the adoption industry. Birth mothers are still vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous agencies, lawyers and facilitators—and prospective parents are vulnerable, too. But domestic adoption rarely occurs the way it did on "20/20." Instead, an agency will show a birth mother written profiles of waiting couples, and she will pick one she'd like to meet. Or a birth mom may read parent profiles on Internet adoption sites and contact a couple herself.

We met our daughter's birth mother 18 months ago through friends of friends. Five months' pregnant, she was considering adoption; we were seeking to adopt. She and her boyfriend, students in their twenties, flew to Washington from their home in the Southeast to inspect us. The four of us sat around our dining room table, and they asked pointed questions about our values, our child-rearing philosophy, our families,

religion, community. There may be more stressful experiences in life, but I haven't yet encountered them. When she told us a month later that she wanted us to adopt her baby, we were amazed, grateful—and terrified that she would change her mind.

Birth mothers do change their minds. I know more than a few adoptive parents who have carried babies home, only to have to give them back. (Revocation periods, which are controlled by state law, vary from 48 hours in Florida to Maryland's 30 days.) I can't imagine anything more excruciating. But I also can't imagine what it feels like to carry a child for nine months, give birth, and then hand the baby over, thinking you'll never see that child again. We were lucky. Our daughter's birth mother remained resolute. She even returned to the hospital two days after our daughter's birth to help us dress her in her first little pink outfit, then walked us out the hospital door and waved goodbye.

Truthfully, when we first considered adoption four years ago, we didn't want to have anything to do with birth parents. Like most couples in their thirties and forties who have been battered by infertility, we just wanted to grab the baby and run. But as we learned more about adoption, we realized it doesn't work that way today. Like it or not, I'm

not the only mother in my daughter's life. Adopted children have birth mothers, birth fathers, birth grandparents and often birth siblings. To deny their existence, or pretend that they don't matter, is to deny a child's heritage.

Closed adoption tried to do just that. That system started to fall out of favor in the 1970s, when research showed that psychological problems in teenage and adult adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents often were related to the secrecy of the process. "The more information and openness we can weave into adoption, the better off kids will be in the long term," says Debbie Riley, a therapist and executive director of the Center for Adoption Support and Education in Silver Spring, Md. "It's much more dangerous to deal with the unknown than to deal with the real."

We did our best to come up with real information. We asked our daughter's birth parents to give us a detailed history of their families, including illnesses and interests. Thus we can imagine one day telling her that she's tall just like her birth uncle, or that her birth grandma was a yoga instructor, too. We also agreed to exchange letters and photographs with her birth parents regularly, so that they wouldn't worry about how she was doing.

□ □ □ □

But when our daughter's birth moth-

er asked us, while still at the hospital, if she could come visit us, quite to our astonishment we barely hesitated before we said yes. We trusted her to do the right thing for our daughter, and for us. Is this scary? Yes. Let's face it, parenthood isn't for sissies, no matter which path you choose to reach that blessed state. Adoption adds its own peculiar fears and anxieties. But I'm willing to take on some extra anxiety if it will make life better for my child. When our daughter's birth parents came to visit two months ago, and we all went to the Smithsonian's Insect Zoo together, it seemed, oddly enough, like the most normal thing in the world.

Make no mistake: I am my daughter's mother. I love her as fiercely as any mother on earth. If at some point I felt that contact with her birth family would be harmful to her, I wouldn't hesitate to renegotiate those relationships. Birth relatives are a lot like in-laws; some you love, some you tolerate, some you wouldn't leave alone in the room with your child. These relationships change over time, as in all families. Some birth parents drift away. And even in traditionally closed international adoptions, adoptive parents increasingly are seeking contact or information for their children later on.

Much more research needs to be done on outcomes of open adoption, but what's out there shows that birth parents only very rarely attempt to intrude on adoptive families' lives, and that both adoptive parents and birth parents are satisfied with ongoing contact. And children who know from their diaper days that they were adopted seem more comfortable with the notion of having both birth parents and adoptive parents than we grownups are. "Kids do understand it completely," says therapist Joyce Maguire Pavao, author of "The Family of Adoption." "It's never easy. It's a relationship. Relationships are difficult. But there's something very rich about it as well."

I'm not sure where we go from here. This is all new terrain. But I'm celebrating this Mother's Day with awe and joy: awe at the young woman who cared so deeply for her baby that she would endure great suffering to give her the parents she felt that baby deserved, and joy that my daughter will know she is loved by all her relatives, by adoption and by birth.

Nancy Shute is a senior writer at U.S. News & World Report. She lives in Montgomery County, Md.

April showers ...

By JANELLE ERLICHMAN
THE WASHINGTON POST

For Mother's Day, why not get Mom blooms that won't wilt?

"Just like the flowers of spring, pretty flower pins are the perfect way to accessorize this season," says Sew Pretty creator Raquel Caruso, of Nutley, N.J.

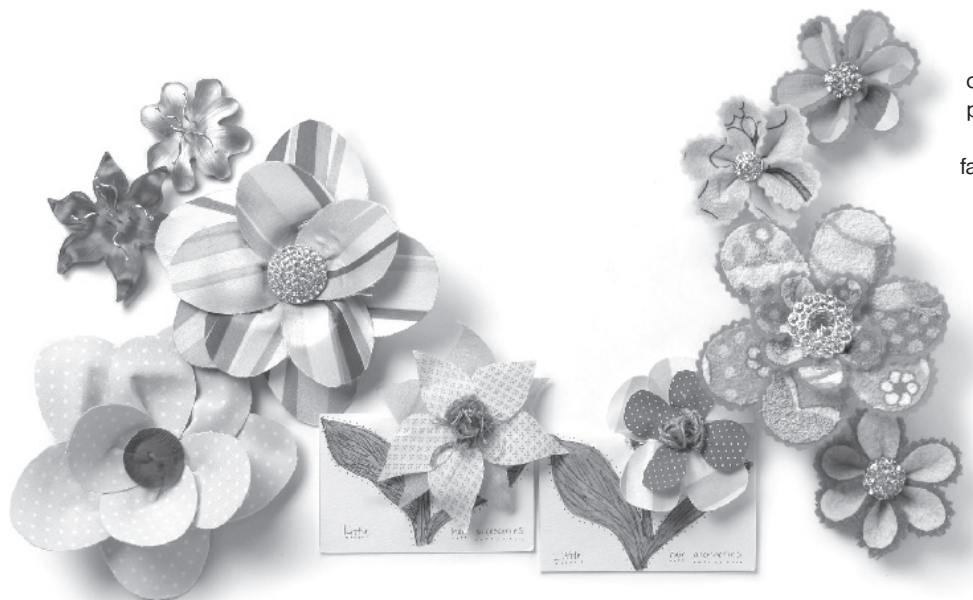
A companion to lapels, bags and hats, they also complement tanks, dresses and suits. And they work solo or in clusters.

Brooklyn, N.Y., artist Maggie Klein-

peter has morphed traditional fabric flowers into flowers made of chubby felt, textured linen and mixed media, with shreds of silk organza, linen and cotton. But no matter the style, the blossom remains.

"I love flowers because they are beautiful and colorful and they make me happy," says Kleinpeter. "I love the flower pins because they make the women who wear them happy."

Web resources: sewprettyonline.com, supermaggie.com, littlebyjenny.com, MoMA.org, blissen.com



From left, Alexis Bittar pins in pink or magenta with Lucite petals and sterling silver pistils (\$175), at MoMA.org; Raquel Caruso's pins with fabric petals and vintage button centers (\$18 each), at sewprettyonline.com; Little by Jenny hairpins (\$12), at littlebyjenny.com; Maggie pins in big (\$50) and small (\$40).

THE WASHINGTON POST

World

Dollars & Sense

CORPORATE*Roundup*

United States

American suspect in Spain blasts profiled

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The first American arrested in the deadly train bombing in Madrid is a former Army lieutenant and a convert to Islam who lives in a nondescript suburban home and faithfully attends a nearby mosque.

Family members say Brandon Mayfield is innocent and has never even been to Spain. But law enforcement officials there said Friday that his fingerprints had been found on bags containing detonators of the kind used in the March 11 attack, which killed 191 people and injured 2,000 others.

He is being held as a material witness, which allows the government to detain him without filing formal charges, to allow time for further investigation.

“I think it’s crazy—we haven’t been outside the country for 10 years,” said his wife, Mona. “They found only a part of one fingerprint. It could be anybody. He was in the Army and they’re just trying to fit a certain profile.”

Mayfield, 37, is an attorney who took low-income immigration and family-law clients at his practice in suburban Portland, once representing Muslim terrorism suspect Jeffrey Battle in a child custody case.

Battle was among six Portland-area residents who were sentenced last year on charges of conspiring to wage war against the United States by helping al-Qaida and the former Taliban rulers of Afghanistan.

Mayfield was born in Oregon and grew up in Halstead, Kan., a small farming town about 30 miles northwest of Wichita. He joined the Army right out of high school and was stationed in Germany among other places. He later earned a law degree and settled down in Portland, where he and his Egyptian-born wife have three children.

“He has always been a delight,” said his stepmother, Ruth Alexander of Halstead, recalling a compassionate child who once kept a pet grasshopper. “This is positively unbelievable. He was never in any trouble growing up.”

Mayfield met his wife on a blind date in 1987 while stationed at Fort Lewis near Tacoma, Wash. Records from Washoe County, Nev., show the two were married in 1988. Their children are ages 10, 12 and 15.

Their youngest was born on the Bitburg air base in western Germany, where Mayfield was stationed in the air defense unit. Mona Mayfield, 35, said her husband’s only trip to the Middle East was in 1993, when the couple and their children took a 30-day leave to travel to Egypt.

Mayfield was honorably discharged in 1994, after a shoulder injury. He attended Lewis & Clark law school in Portland for a semester, and received his degree from Washburn University in Kansas. He passed the Oregon bar in 2000.



Mayfield

OB/LIZAMA

Methodists endorse church unity after rift

PITTSBURGH (AP)—United Methodists hugged and wept as they overwhelmingly endorsed church unity Friday, a day after a rift over homosexuality broke wide open with an evangelical proposal to split the denomination.

Choking back emotions, delegates spoke in support of the unity resolution at the end of their national policy meeting, which is held once every four years. The measure passed 869-41, with eight abstentions.

“Our denomination was very clear today. We are going to continue as the United Methodist Church as we know it,” said the Rev. John Schol of West Chester, Pa., who organized a group to draft the resolution. “I think we’ll come back in four years a stronger denomination.”

On Thursday, the Rev. William Hinson, a prominent Methodist pastor and president of the conservative Confessing Movement, startled many General Conference participants by announcing he could no longer endure the dis-

pute over homosexuality that has dragged on since 1972.

He said he had concluded that opposing sides in the debate could never reconcile their views on what the Bible says about gays, so they should divide up the church. The 8.3 million-member denomination is the third-largest in the country.

Hinson said he did not interpret Friday’s vote as a repudiation. Conservative leaders plan to spend the next four years building support among local congregations for a schism.

“I know unity is important, but someone said if you sacrifice truth on the altar of unity you lose both,” Hinson said.

Several hundred evangelical delegates, who had gathered for their daily breakfast strategy session, gave Hinson a standing ovation Friday when he rose to address them. Scott Field, legislative coordinator for a coalition of evangelicals, said they had been flooded with “thumbs-up e-mails and phone calls” in response to the pastor’s speech.

PETE A

Life & Style

Israeli jets strike south Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Israeli jets hit suspected guerrilla positions in southern Lebanon on Friday after an artillery attack killed an Israeli soldier near the border—a skirmish that was the second exchange of fire in the disputed area this week.

The Lebanese foreign minister said the situation in southern Lebanon was taking a “dangerous course.” Two Israeli lawmakers urged their government to respond with a larger attack on Syria and Lebanon.

The Israeli military said one soldier was killed in the dawn attack and eight were wounded, two of them seriously.

It said the Israeli troops had been checking equipment and explosive devices found near a site attacked by Hezbollah the previous day. Hezbollah, in a statement in Beirut, said Israeli troops tried to infiltrate guerrilla-controlled territory.

“Rocket and machine-gun clashes erupted, resulting in a number of the enemy force be-

ing killed and wounded,” Hezbollah said. Its statement did not mention guerrilla casualties.

Less than two hours later, two Israeli jets fired six missiles at guerrilla-controlled hills just inside the Lebanese border in retaliation, officials said.

The northern Israel military commander, Maj. Gen. Benny Gantz, said a patrol came under mortar and artillery attack and returned fire “with artillery and from the air.”

Lebanese officials said the battle lasted about three hours.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Jean Obeid called on the United Nations to restrain Israel, saying the airstrike was part of “Israel’s continual program of attacking Lebanese territory.”

“The situation is taking a dangerous course,” he said.

Israel lawmaker Yuval Steinitz said: “I would aim the sights at the Lebanese government, who need finally to take responsibility” for southern Lebanon. Steinitz heads the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

North Korea agrees to military talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea agreed Friday to hold rare high-level military talks with Seoul aimed at easing tensions on the world’s most heavily armed border, and a convoy of South Korean trucks rumbled over that fron-

tier with aid for victims of last month’s train disaster.

The two Korean militaries, still facing off across the Demilitarized Zone, seldom hold talks, although the two governments have expanded economic and political exchanges

in recent years.

Earlier Friday, the two sides had ended three days of Cabinet-level meetings in the North’s capital, Pyongyang, without any agreement on increasing economic exchanges or reducing military tensions along their border. But in a reversal after the meeting’s close, the People’s Army agreed to hold talks “soon” with the South Korean military.

South Korean Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun expected the meeting to take place this month, as his delegation has demanded. The countries made a similar agreement during their last Cabinet-level talks in February, but no date

was set and the North later refused to meet.

North Korea, repeating its decades-old position, earlier insisted it would open military talks only if South Korea halts routine military exercises with the United States, which it calls preparations to invade the isolated country. South Korea rejected the North Korean demand.

Instead, the South called for high-level military talks later this month to discuss ways of avoiding naval clashes that sometimes occur along the poorly marked western sea border as fishing boats jostle for position during crab-catching season in May and June.



AP

SECOND TERM

Russian President Vladimir Putin walks through St. George’s Hall to take part in an inauguration ceremony in Moscow’s Kremlin, Friday, May 7, 2004. Putin starting his second term with a solemn inauguration ceremony in an ornate Kremlin hall Friday, nearly two months after easily winning re-election as leader of what he called a “vast, great power.”



Four killed in Bangladesh rally attack

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Gunmen opened fire at an opposition rally outside the capital of Bangladesh on Friday, killing four people including a member of parliament, his party and police said.

Ahsanullah Master, a lawmaker from the main opposition Awami League, was attending a rally of the party’s labor wing in the industrial town of Tongi when about 15 gunmen opened fire, said Awami League spokesman Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

Master died soon after he was brought to Dhaka’s Combined Military Hospital with multiple bullet wounds in his chest, Chowdhury said.

Three other members of the party died from bullet wounds on the way to the hospital, a police official said on condition of anonymity.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Hundreds of angry opposition supporters took to the streets after the shooting and smashed dozens of passing vehicles, witnesses said.

Two Polish TV journalists killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—Poland’s best-known war reporter and a colleague were killed Friday by gunmen who ambushed the TV crew on a road south of Baghdad. A cameraman was wounded.

Waldemar Milewicz, an award-winning correspondent for Poland’s TVP television, and Mounir Bouamrane, an Algerian-Polish national who was his producer, died in volleys of

gunfire in Mahmoudiyah, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, Polish television said.

“Poland’s most outstanding journalist has been killed,” Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski told the PAP news agency. “It is a great tragedy for his relatives and a great loss for us all.”

Kwasniewski said the journalists’ deaths would have no effect on Poland’s role in the occupation, where it leads a multinational force that includes 2,400 of its own troops.

Cameraman Jerzy Ernst’s forearm was shattered by bullets.

Nepal prime minister resigns amid furor

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal’s prime minister quit Friday after weeks of protests demanding the return of democracy in the Himalayan kingdom wracked by political instability and a Maoist insurgency.

The resignation of Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa opens the way for talks between King Gyanendra and opposition parties demanding the restoration of a democratic government.

Thapa, 75, had served since the king appointed him last June to replace another monarchist prime minister who resigned after political parties protested his appointment as unconstitutional.

“I have tendered my resignation to the king so that a national consensus can be reached to protect multiparty democracy and the interest of the nation,” Thapa said on state-run Nepal Television.

While there was no official announcement that his resignation had been accepted by the king, that was considered a formality.

Life & Style

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**
AP WRITER

The themes found in a newly uncovered collection of traditional Japanese verse would be familiar to any reader here: the melancholy passing of the seasons, fleeting beauty, the inevitability of death.

The poets, however, are an unlikely bunch—war criminals imprisoned for Japanese atrocities during World War II.

The 30 poems are assembled in two booklets that came to light this month after a historian obtained them from the family of a prisoner who served with other suspected war criminals held by U.S. authorities in the 1940s and early 1950s.

The bards include several Japanese officials who were convicted of war crimes and hanged—particularly wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo and wartime air force com-

mander Kenji Doihara.

The poets, held in Tokyo’s Sugamo Prison, mused wistfully about the seasons and dwelled sadly on their own impending deaths, writing in short Japanese forms like haiku, in free verse or in meters borrowed from ancient China.

But there is little hint of regret for Japan’s bloody conquest of East Asia or its harsh treatment of prisoners of war.

“I’m afraid many of them

didn’t think they had done anything wrong,” said Tadashi Watanabe, a history professor at Bukkyo University who obtained the poems. “Many of them felt that the situation they were facing was unjust but tried to accept it as their fate.”

Tojo, who ordered the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the United States into the war, probably was one of those, citing a passage from a Buddhist sutra in 1946:

*“Removed from delusive hindrance,
He has not been made to tremble,
He has overcome what can upset.”*

In another, he quoted the ancient Chinese philosopher Mencius: “Truth is the way of the heaven, to believe in truth is the way of a man.”

The poems originally were collected by Kosaku Hazama, who was on trial for his treatment of POWs at a camp in western Japan. A former English teacher, Hazama acted as an interpreter at the prison and apparently asked other inmates personally for poems, Watanabe said.

One booklet, titled *Poetry in Idleness in the Six Houses* for the prison buildings where the writers were kept, was dated 1946. The second untitled booklet, featuring the work of prisoners who were not executed, was dated 1952.

Watanabe learned about the booklets several years ago and persuaded the Hazama family to allow him to examine them in 2002. He only decided this year to publicize them, though he said he has no immediate plans to publish the books.

A separate earlier collection of poems by Tojo and other war criminals has been available for years, but the Hazama booklets are more extensive and cover a different period of their imprisonment, Watanabe said.

The trial lasted nearly 2 1/2

years. Twenty-eight were convicted of Class A charges, which included crimes against peace and crimes against humanity.

Sixteen men were sentenced to life in prison, and seven, including Tojo, were sentenced to hang. They went to the gallows Dec. 23, 1948.

Of the remaining Class A convicts, one was sentenced to 20 years, one was sentenced to seven years, two died before they were sentenced and one was declared insane.

Hazama was convicted of lesser crimes and later released. He died about 10 years ago, Watanabe said.

Most of those spared the death sentence were paroled in the 1950s. Some eventually returned to high positions in politics and business—Mamoru Shigemitsu became foreign minister in 1954 and Nobusuke Kishi prime minister in 1957.

The fact that politicians and military men would dedicate themselves to verse in their final days illustrates the honored poetic tradition in Japan, where the seasons and flowers can be used to depict everything from a love affair to bloody defeat in battle.

Despite the crimes of their authors, the lines sometimes can be poignant. Another wartime prime minister, Koki Hirota, wrote before he was hanged:

*“Sitting under the moonlight
At the right time,
Comes a gentle breeze.”*

NEW YORK (AP)—It felt a little like “Ballet and the City” the other night at Lincoln Center.

The occasion was Wednesday’s glittery gala kicking off New York City Ballet’s spring season, hosted by actress Sarah Jessica Parker and featuring treats like Placido Domingo singing a love song, Wynton Marsalis performing on trumpet and Kevin Kline quoting Shakespeare.

Oh yes, there were dancers, too, performing crowd-pleasing highlights from the company’s repertoire. After the show, the promenade at the New York State Theater was filled with giant white floral arrangements, linen tablecloths and champagne glasses for a black-tie ball.

But the star of the night, yet again, was the man whom the company has been honoring all year: the late George Balanchine, its co-founder and choreographer, who would have been 100 years old this year.

The evening, which was also broadcast on PBS and on large screens in Lincoln Center Plaza, was devoted to Balanchine’s brilliant choreography. Pep-

pered throughout were film clips of him talking, working, joking, even snacking.

One moment that drew appreciative laughs was Balanchine’s admission that he—even he—had trouble getting inspired. “Inspiration doesn’t just come over you, like a stomach ache,” he said. “You have to work and sweat through things.”

Parker introduced the evening’s various acts, and the “Sex and the City” star didn’t disappoint fashionistas: she wore three different dresses during the two-hour show, finishing up in a glistening white-and-gold ball gown.

After a trumpet fanfare, the first guest was Domingo, who usually sings across the plaza at the Metropolitan Opera, performing “None But the Lonely Heart” to music by Tchaikovsky.

Next were 32 students from the School of American Ballet—founded by Balanchine to feed the company—in a lively excerpt from “Harlequinade,” full of signature Balanchine steps similar to those in his children’s masterpiece, “The Nutcracker.”

mell
+red/blue

‘Punisher’s’ Jane has more than paid his dues



THE BALTIMORE SUN
Baltimore native Thomas Jane, 35, portrays undercover FBI agent Frank Castle, the Marvel Comics character known as The Punisher.

By CHRIS KALTENBACH
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Poised on the brink of movie stardom, Thomas Jane is a man to be envied. He’s got the looks, he’s got the career, he’s got the glamorous fiancée (actress Patricia Arquette) and the cute young daughter, 14-month-old Harlow.

But consider what it took for him to become what he is—dropping out of school at 16, sleeping on the streets of L.A., eating out of garbage cans, living off the residuals of playing a guy in a chicken suit. For all the dues-paying he’s done, success may be the least he deserves.

“I guess I was young and crazy,” the sandy-haired Jane says between cigarettes in the bar of a posh Washington, D.C., hotel. “I just didn’t see myself doing anything else. I knew that I had to take some kind of action—that’s a kind of boldness that lends itself to its own creativity.”

Jane, 35, is the Baltimore-born, suburban D.C.-raised actor whose steady rise in the Hollywood ranks took a major leap last month with the opening of “The Punisher,” his first starring role in a major-studio release.

There really was no other way to go but up.

Disinterested in academics, determined to make it as an actor and convinced the Wash-

ington-area schools in which he was enrolled would be of no help, Jane chucked it all for a life of casting calls and agents, parts that don’t materialize and parts you may wish had never materialized.

Nineteen years later, with his turn as Marvel Comics’ vigilante killing machine having opened on 2,649 movie screens nationwide, Jane realizes how lucky he is to have gambled so much and won, in a game where losses are much more the norm.

“I just kind of felt it instinctually,” Jane says, “that if I really wanted to do something, I had to do something about it, something outside the box. I had to jump in with both feet and just hit it as hard as I could. It turned out to pay off for me.”

That appears to be true. While “The Punisher,” the story of how FBI agent Frank Castle evolved from law enforcer to vengeance-seeking vigilante, received tepid reviews, Jane has earned praise for the workmanlike solidity of his performance and his refusal to resort to caricature. The movie may not make him a major star, but it should help the steady ascent of an actor who has worked with such influential directors as Terrence Malick (“The Thin Red Line”), John Woo (“Face/Off”) and Paul Thomas Anderson (“Boogie Nights,”

“Magnolia”), and such screen mainstays as Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman, Sean Penn, John Travolta, Nicolas Cage and Samuel L. Jackson.

“I always try to work with people who are better than I am, because I’m trying to learn as much as I can,” he says. “I’m trying to hone my craft and become the best actor I can be.”

Jane’s stay in his native Baltimore was brief—so brief, in fact, that the only thing he says he remembers is eating clams alongside his dad at Faidley’s raw bar at Lexington Market. His father’s job (he works in biogenetic engineering, developing tools and instruments) soon had the family relocating to

the Washington suburbs. At age 9, Jane experienced something of an epiphany when his dad took him to see Ridley Scott’s “Alien.” “I was fascinated,” he says, “I discovered there was this other world there.”

Jane began building sets for the school vaudeville review. “I sort of got cajoled into auditioning for the play we were building sets for, because I was always cutting up and acting the goof. I got in the play, and that kind of sparked it off that I (could) do what I wanted to do. So I dropped out of high school.”

And into the arms of Ralph Tabakin, a Silver Spring, Md., acting coach who died in 2001 and is best known for the

small roles he has played in every Barry Levinson film (on TV’s “Homicide: Life on the Street,” he played medical examiner Scheiner). It was Tabakin who got Jane his first role on camera.

“Some Indians—from India—came to town, and they wanted to make a Romeo and Juliet-type story, about an American kid and an Indian girl. I got the job through Ralph, went off to India to live for a few months, toured all around this country making the movie.”

One Bollywood credit doesn’t guarantee a 17-year-old much in the way of a career, however, and Jane soon found himself pounding the Hollywood pave-

ment. “I was basically penniless. I stayed in welfare hotels and lived off food stamps, played guitar on the street, slept on the street sometimes.

“I bummed around different little acting classes around L.A. for a while; I saw a lot of guys keep their waiter jobs and go to school on the side to be an accountant or whatever. Everybody had a backup plan. I did not. I ate out of trash cans, that was my backup plan.”

Slowly, the parts came. Jane earned his union card for a commercial in which he wore a chicken costume and was featured in an AT&T commercial deemed “too dark” by the

See **PUNISHER’S** on Page 30

jp obit

51 million tune in for 'Friends' finale

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

In the end, Rachel, Ross, Joey, Phoebe, Monica and Chandler had a lot of friends. An estimated 51.1 million people tuned in for the final "Friends" on NBC Thursday night, watching the crowd-pleasing story line of Ross and Rachel declaring their undying love for each other.

That makes it the fourth most-watched television series finale ever, behind "M-A-S-H" (105 million in 1983), "Cheers" (80.4 million in 1993) and "Seinfeld" (76.2 million in 1998), according to Nielsen Media Research.

It was also the most popular entertainment program on

television since the concluding episode of the first "Survivor," watched by 51.7 million in August 2000.

Besides the Ross-Rachel coupling—after a series of last-minute fits and starts—Monica and Chandler's characters were surprised by the birth of twins as they prepared to move to the suburbs. The series ended with the new parents moving out of the impossibly large New York apartment that was the show's primary setting.

Of more than 30,000 people to respond to an America Online poll, 77 percent said rekindling Ross and Rachel's romance was the perfect ending for the show.

"I just finished bawling my

David Schwimmer, left, hugs Jennifer Aniston in this scene from the series finale of NBC's "Friends," in this undated publicity photo. AP



eyes out," one AOL member posted. "I am sooo glad you got off the plane, Rach. I should have done the same thing a long time ago."

The show received mixed reviews from television critics.

"It went out as it came in 10 years ago—as the blandest, most artless comedy series ever to top Nielsen charts in the history of television," wrote an unsentimental Adam Buckman of the New York Post.

Eric Deggans, TV critic at the St. Petersburg, Fla. Times, said the finale displayed much of the mostly crackling comedy that viewers had come to expect.

"So comfortable was Thursday's finale that it didn't really feel like a goodbye," Deggans wrote. "Grounded in all the things that made the show great, it left us feeling like we could expect to turn on the TV at 8 p.m. next Thursday and see our televised buddies waiting for us."

While the finale was "formulaic," Aaron Barnhart of the Kansas City Star said it "at least avoided the ignominious end of other more critically acclaimed

sitcoms, like 'M-A-S-H' and 'Seinfeld.'"

Frazier Moore of The Associated Press was unimpressed.

"Lots of group hugs," he wrote. "Lots of tears. Then everyone, including the newborns, were off to the Central Perk for one last coffee. What this finale served viewers was a mighty weak brew."

Nielsen estimated that just under 36 million people warmed up for the last episode by watching highlights of the past 10 seasons during the hour preceding Thursday's finale. The "Tonight" show, where Jay Leno interviewed the six cast members, had its highest rating in big cities since the "Seinfeld" finale.

NBC's promotion of the show was relentless, including "Date-line NBC" specials the night before and after.

"Can I tell you something honestly?" Jon Stewart said on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" on Thursday. "I never watched that show—and I'm sick of it."

(Jane) and Roger Maris (Barry Pepper).

But all this was just a preamble to Frank Castle, aka the Punisher, a role that "is more true to what I wanted to do, who I was, and what I wanted to say as an actor," Jane says.

"It's important for him to be very real and a very human person. That he be identifiable in a way that a larger-than-life cartoonish character isn't."

"Ultimately, I feel isolated from a guy who can put on a suit and fly, or his laser vision shoots out. I've never been very much interested in playing a superhero, per se. Frank appealed to me because he has a lot more in common with the anti-heroes of the '70s than he does with the comic-book heroes of today."

Sounds like the kind of role upon which careers can be built.

"The Punisher" is the film I've been waiting for a long time," Jane says. "Waiting to get good enough, waiting for people to notice me and give me the chance to

PUNISHER'S

From Page 29

company and never aired. He earned small parts in films such as "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (1992), "The Crow: City of Angels" (1996) and "Face/Off" (1997). "And then I got 'Boogie Nights' (1997), which was my first real role," he says. "From then on, I felt that I could make a career out of being a character actor."

The trickle of parts grew to include starring roles in independent films such as "The Last Time I Committed Suicide" (1997), based on the life of Beat writer Neal Cassady, and "Thursday" (1998), in which he played a reformed drug dealer whose past catches up to him. One of his first forays into what he calls "leading-man kind of stuff" came with HBO's "61(asterisk)," director Billy Crystal's take on the 1961 home-run race between New York Yankees Mickey Mantle

tribune grad ad

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A former Xerox copier salesman who made it to the final episodes of Donald Trump's hit reality show, "The Apprentice," has been hired by the Oakland Raiders—but not to play football.

Chief Executive Officer Amy Trask, a fan of the NBC show, has hired Nick Warnock, 27, to sell 143 luxury suites at the Oakland Coliseum.

"I called someone else in our office equally addicted to

the show and told him, 'I want to hire this guy to sell suites,'" Trask said. "At first he was dubious, but when we saw on his Web site that he had a football background (he played high school and college football), it seemed like a great idea."

Warnock flew from Los Angeles to the team's Alameda headquarters Thursday for an interview. Although

his salary and benefits are still being negotiated, Trask said Warnock has agreed to work for the team this season.

Trask said she was impressed by Warnock's salesmanship on the show and noted that many people, including Trump, complimented his ability to close a deal.

"This is one of the greatest organizations in the country," War-



Warnock

nock said. "Who hasn't heard of the Raiders, the Autumn Wind, the Silver and Black? It's as recognizable as the Yankees."

Warnock, a native of New Jersey, was among 16 candidates on "The Apprentice" who competed for a high-paying job with Trump. In the last episode, Trump hired Internet entrepreneur Bill Rancic, who will oversee the construction of a 90-story building project in Chicago.

Billy Joel's crash debris fetches \$1,075

WEST BABYLON, N.Y. (AP)—Busted-up pieces of the grill from the car Billy Joel was driving when he skidded into a house on Long Island last month have sold at a charity auction for \$1,075.

WBLI morning show co-host Steve Harper said Friday that an unidentified bidder from Lindenhurst was the win-

ner of the online auction sponsored by his radio station. He said the bidder has two weeks to come forward.

Harper said the money will be donated to the Maurer Foundation, a Long Island-based group that helps in the fight against breast cancer.

Joel lost control of his vintage 1967 Citroen on a rain-slicked

road near his home on April 25, slamming into a house. The 55-year-old singer received a small cut on his left ring finger but refused medical attention.

The wreck was the third in two years for Joel. Last year he was hospitalized after smashing his car into a tree along a highway on far eastern Long Island, and he escaped serious

injury in a crash in East Hampton in June 2002.

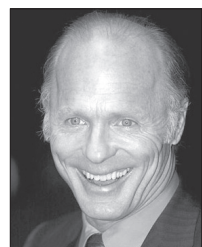
The debris was collected off the street at the crash site by the station's "Slam the Stunt Man," Harper said. A Nassau County police spokesman has said Joel did not say he wanted the grill parts back, so there was no legal reason to stop the auction.

Ed Harris to receive achievement award

WATERVILLE, Maine (AP)—Ed Harris will return to Maine this summer to collect the Maine International Film Festival's Mid-Life Achievement Award.

The actor spent most of last fall in Maine starring as Miles Roby in HBO's adaptation of Richard Russo's "Empire Falls."

"We always thought Ed Harris was a fabulous actor," said Ken Eisen, an owner of the Railroad



Harris

Square Cinemas and one of the festival's programming directors. "When he came here, he wowed everybody here, not just with his acting, but with his humanity."

While filming "Empire Falls" in Skowhegan in mid-November, Harris surprised moviegoers by appearing at the Strand Cinema to introduce and discuss "Pollock," the story of artist Jackson Pollock, which he starred in and directed.

The 53-year-old also signed movie posters that were auctioned to benefit the Family Violence Project in Somerset and Kennebec counties.

Eisen said festival organizers are still discussing the date of Harris' arrival. The festival is scheduled for July 9-18.

Harris has been nominated for Academy Awards for his work in "Apollo 13," "The Truman Show," "Pollock" and "The Hours."

Past recipients of the award include actors Peter Fonda and Sissy Spacek, as well as directors Jonathan Demme and Terrence Malick.

Sutherland attends stepdaughter's wedding

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP)—Kiefer Sutherland, in a tartan kilt and knee-socks, attended the wedding of his former stepdaughter in the Scottish capital.

Sutherland, whose latest role in the TV series "24" has made him a familiar face in Britain, chatted to fans before the ceremony Thursday in Edinburgh's

City Chambers.

Michelle Kath, the 27-year-old daughter of Sutherland's first wife, Camelia, married actor Adam Sinclair, also 27.

Sutherland and the bridegroom walked to the ceremony from the hotel where Sinclair was staying, accompanied by about 10 other male friends and relatives wear-

ing kilts in a variety of tartans.

The 37-year-old actor, wearing a green-and-blue Douglas tartan, told reporters his grandparents had come from Glasgow. His father is actor Donald Sutherland.

The bride hugged Sutherland as she emerged from a silver chauffeur-driven car before they went into the chambers.

Former 'Bond' actor helps Queen Elizabeth



AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is assisted by actor Sir Roger Moore, as she unveils a plaque during a visit to London's Heathrow Airport, Friday May 7, 2004, to mark the 10th anniversary of UNICEF and British Airways' "Change for Good" program.

LONDON (AP)—It didn't require much 007 derring-do, but former James Bond actor Roger Moore came to Queen Elizabeth II's rescue Friday, helping out when technical trouble prevented the monarch from unveiling a plaque.

The queen pressed a button that was supposed to open a set of red curtains in front of a Heathrow airport plaque honoring a charity fund-raising program, but nothing happened.

Moore got up from his seat and crouched down to tug at the drapes, which opened on the second try.

"I wasn't meant to be up there but James Bond has got to do something," Moore said later.

The 76-year-old actor and the queen attended a ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of a UNICEF-British Airways program that raises money by asking airline passengers to donate coins and bills of any currency.

Moore, who's an ambassador for UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency, was knighted by the queen last year and said it was great to see her again. "I'm a royalist so I'm always thrilled," he said.

UNICEF uses money from the Change for Good program to help children around the world through efforts such as polio vaccinations in Zambia and aid to street children in Mexico. Officials said it has raised more than \$30.6 million.

"It brings hope to children who literally have none," Moore said.

Woman whose child died is still a mother in spirit

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: Today is Mother's Day and I'm feeling rather down. Eight years ago, I found out the joyous news that I was expecting. Following that, a devastating thing happened in my life. I was brutally raped. I gave birth prematurely—at 5 1/2 months—and my daughter passed away three hours later.

Abby, I feel that although I didn't have the joy of raising my daughter, I am a mother nonetheless. She has a name and I think of her daily. A good friend of mine disagrees. She says I'm not a mom because I have no living children to show off. She has told some of our mutual friends that I'm "not all there" upstairs.

Could you tell me how to deal with this tactfully? I would also like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to all those who have lost children to miscarriage and stillbirth.

STILL A MOM IN ALBUQUERQUE

DEAR STILL A MOM: Clip this letter and give it to your "friend," who doesn't sound like much of a friend to me. You ARE a mother—you're the mother of an angel.

DEAR ABBY: I would like to acknowledge all mothers on this Mother's Day. It astounds me that motherhood remains one of the least respected occupations in our society. Mothers are on call 24/7, and their job encompasses more professions than any other I can think of.

My mother excelled in many roles, including plumber, porter and, at times, platoon sergeant. To get a snapshot of her career, I created the following job description that ranges from A to Z:

- Accountant
- Baker
- Coach
- Dressmaker
- Electrician
- Financial adviser
- Grief counselor
- Health-care practitioner
- Interior decorator
- Judge
- Kitchen Manager
- Lender
- Mediator
- Nutritionist
- Office clerk
- Psychic
- Quartermaster
- Restaurateur
- Supervisor
- Taxi driver
- Underwriter
- Victim's rights advocate
- Weightlifter
- X-ray vision expert (OK, but for years I THOUGHT she had it!)
- Yard maintenance assistant
- Zookeeper

If you print this, please do so in honor of my mother, Barbara Irgens. Thank you, Mom, for choosing to be one!

LOVE, HEIDI

DEAR HEIDI: Motherhood from A to Z. I love it! I'm pleased to print your job description, knowing mothers and children of every age will relate to it.

Happy Mother's Day to birth mothers, adoptive and foster mothers, and stepmothers everywhere—and especially to my own beautiful mother, Pauline Phillips, in Minneapolis.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2004 35

28 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2004

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2004 27



Pistons stop Nets 95-80 to lead series 2-0

By **LARRY LAGE**
AP SPORTS WRITER



AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—The Detroit Pistons showed New Jersey they can do more than just play defense. Chauncey Billups had 28 points and a career-playoff high 13 assists, Richard Hamilton scored 28 and the Pistons defeated New Jersey 95-80 Friday night to take a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Sunday night in New Jersey.

Rasheed Wallace had 15 points and three blocks and Corliss Williamson had 11 for the Pistons, who took control of the game by outscoring the Nets 27-11 in the third quarter. Ben Wallace had eight points, 11 rebounds and four blocks.

New Jersey's Kenyon Martin, who had 19 points and eight rebounds, fouled out with 1:10 left. Richard Jefferson also had 19 and Rodney Rogers scored 11 off the bench. Jason Kidd had eight points on 3-of-13 shooting and 11 assists.

The Nets took their first lead late in the first quarter, led 46-34 at halftime, and didn't trail again until Hamilton's two free

throws with 3:43 left in the third put Detroit ahead 53-52.

Williamson's basket about a minute later capped a 19-2 run and gave the Pistons a 57-52 lead.

New Jersey pulled within two points twice early in the fourth quarter before Detroit went on a 17-4 run—highlighted by Rasheed Wallace's two 3-pointers—to take an 81-66 lead with just under six minutes left.

The Nets cut their deficit to seven, but couldn't get closer.

In Game 1, Detroit held the two-time Eastern Conference champion Nets to 56 points—the second-lowest total in NBA playoff history—in a 22-point loss. The Nets shot a franchise-playoff low 27.1 percent, and tied an NBA postseason record for fewest field goals with 19 on Monday night.

New Jersey looked like it might be in for another rough shooting night when it missed its first six shots. But then the Nets scored some fast-break baskets, and relentlessly went after offensive rebounds for second and third chances.

They led 46-34 at halftime, scoring just nine points fewer than they did in Game 1. New Jersey also had 27 rebounds, two fewer than they did in the previous game.

Martin had 12 points in the

first half and Jefferson had nine, each with one more than they had Monday night.

But the game turned in the second half.

When the Nets needed them most—in the game-turning third quarter—Martin and Jefferson combined for just five points on 1-of-6 shooting.

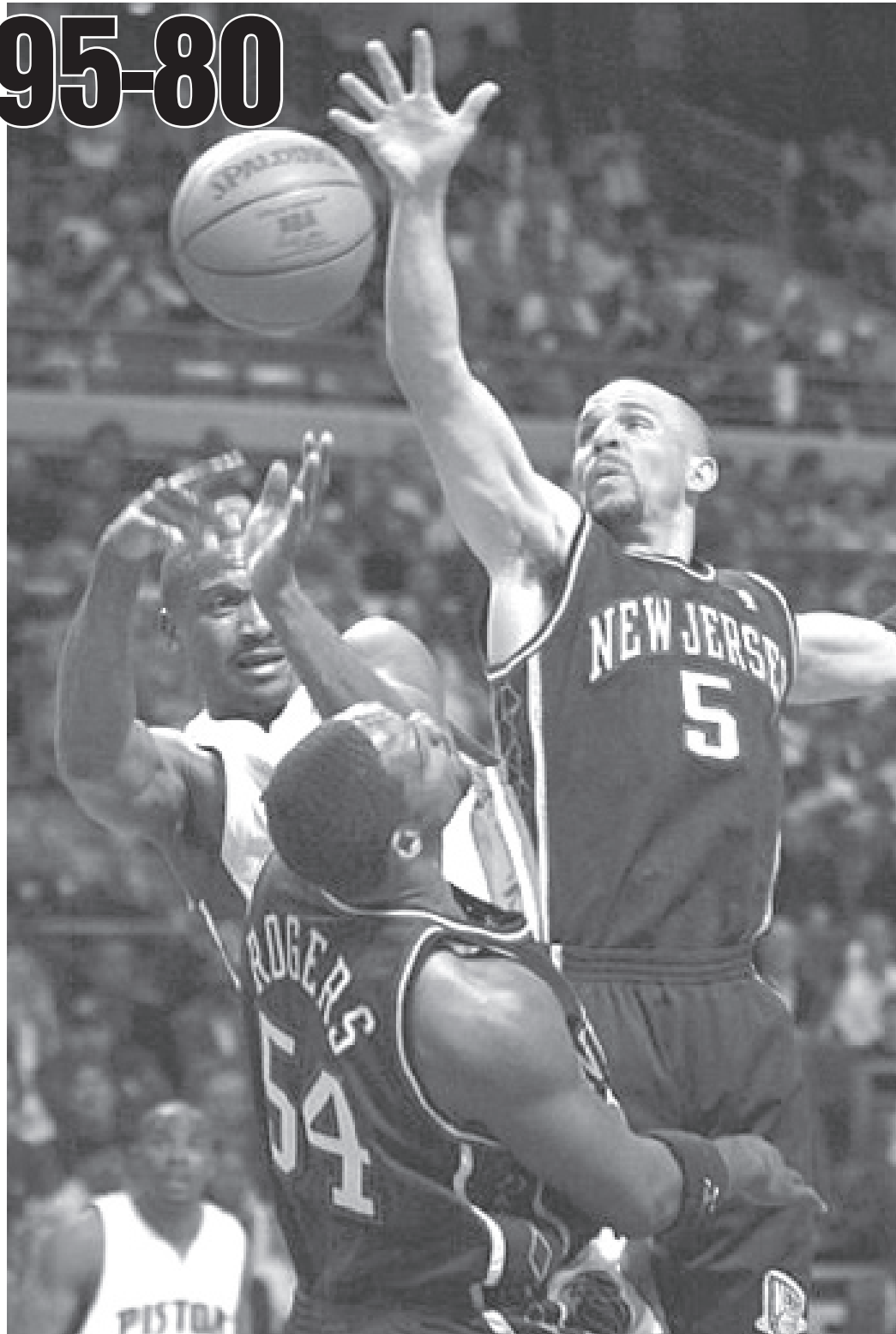
Both teams made 43 percent of their shots.

Detroit's victory in Game 1 snapped the Nets' streak of 14 consecutive postseason victories against Eastern Conference teams, dating back to the first round last year. The streak included a sweep of the Pistons in the conference finals.

New Jersey is trailing a playoff series in the East for the first time since the 2002 conference finals when Boston led 2-1. The Nets won three straight to advance to the first of two consecutive NBA finals.

Detroit Pistons' Lindsey Hunter, center, passes off but is whistled for a charging foul for colliding with New Jersey Nets' Rodney Rogers (54) as Nets' Jason Kidd (5) helps defend in the second quarter of Game 2 of the NBA Eastern Conference semifinals Friday, May 7, 2004, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

AP



Woods takes lead at Wachovia Championship

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP GOLF WRITER



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Tiger Woods says his game is starting to come around, and not many doubted him Friday in the Wachovia Championship.

Woods made every putt inside 20 feet and one from nearly 50 feet. It led to his best round since February, a 6-under 66 at sun-baked Quail Hollow that gave him a two-shot lead going into the weekend.

"More than anything, I gave myself some looks at the putts and I made them—just about every one of them," Woods said. "It's a nice combination."

Woods was at 9-under 135, two shots ahead of Kirk Triplett (73), Notah Begay (70) and Aron Oberholser (68).

Vijay Singh, who is challenging Woods for No. 1 in the world, missed a half-dozen putts inside 18 feet on his back nine and had to settle for a 70, leaving him in the group only three shots behind and setting up the prospects for a major showdown on Sunday.

Singh is hitting the ball so well that Woods three shots ahead of him and Masters champion Phil Mickelson (70) two shots behind him was of little concern.

"We've got the weekend ahead of us," Singh said. "I'm playing well. I think I'm going to be there Sunday."

There's a long list of players ready to join him. Stuart Appleby (72), Brett Quigley (72) and Joey Sindelar (69) joined Singh at 6-under 138.

Davis Love III birdied four of his last five holes for a 66, matching Woods for the best round of the day, and was at 5-under 139 with former Masters champion Mike Weir (72), Kevin Sutherland (68) and Chris DiMarco (70).

Woods, who won the Match Play Championship earlier this year, has not been closer than six shots of the lead going into the weekend at his seven previous stroke-play events this year.

"Everything is improving," he said. "It's just a matter of time before it starts coming together. Hopefully, I can get out there tomorrow and play just the way I did today. And hopefully on Sunday, I'll do the same



Tiger Woods reacts to a missed birdie putt on the seventh green during the second round of the Wachovia Championship Friday May 7, 2004, at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C.

AP

thing."

Indeed, the final two rounds will be a good gauge of his game.

Woods is the best closer in golf, having won the last 18 times on the PGA Tour when he had at least a share of the 36-hole lead. That streak dates to the 1999 Byron Nelson Clas-

sic, and there is some historical significance.

It was the week leading into the '99 Nelson Classic that Woods, who had spent the previous year overhauling his swing, had an epiphany on the practice range when all the changes felt natural. That was the start of a staggering run in which he won

20 times over a two-year period, including a sweep of the majors.

Woods doesn't think he's at that stage. Besides, he said he is only fine-tuning his swing, not revamping it.

"I hit one golf shot where I didn't feel anything and I knew that was it," Woods said of that moment five years ago. "If I could replicate that, I would be on the right track. I haven't had a moment like that yet. I may never, because that was such a drastic change. This is just a minor change."

The biggest difference Friday was his putter.

Woods took only 22 putts, and at one point had seven consecutive one-putt greens. It all started on the second hole, when his 50-foot putt from the bottom of the green fell for birdie, the kind of break that hasn't been going his way the last few months.

Still, he figured he was in for a good round after his worst shot of the day.

Unsure whether to hit it low or high, a fade or a draw, he pushed it high and so far right that it landed in the middle of some pine trees some 50 yards

right of the pin. He was fortunate to eventually get up-and-down for bogey. On the next hole, he drove it so well that Woods only had a 6-iron into the 532-yard seventh to set up a two-putt birdie.

"That's when you know you've erased it and gone back to what you need to do," he said. "That's cool."

When his 20-foot birdie curled into the right side of the cup at No. 11, he was tied for the lead.

"He was 6 under and I thought I was going to have a course record for less than 12 hours," said Triplett, who opened with a 64 on Thursday. "You'd like to have it for a couple of days, give the ink a chance to dry for that scorecard they're going to put up in the locker room."

Not to worry. Woods escaped with par on the 14th, hooked his drive into the water to make bogey on the par-5 15th and only got one of those shots back.

Triplett stayed with him until hitting into thick rough and missing a 3-foot bogey putt on the 16th.

Mickelson has been in contention every Sunday he has played

Alvarez, Mota silence Pirates' sluggers

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Wilson Alvarez had a perfect game in the sixth inning before Chris Stynes reached on an infield hit—Pittsburgh's only baserunner—and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Pirates 4-0 on Friday night.

Alvarez (1-0), who has made eight relief appearances this year, combined with Guillermo Mota on the one-hitter, helping the NL West leaders improve to 18-10.

"You can't pitch any better than Wilson Alvarez did for the seven innings he was out there," Los Angeles manager Jim Tracy said.

At Chicago, Zambrano (3-1) retired his first 14 batters and gave up a career-low two hits for the Cubs in his second career shutout, an 11-0 win over the Colorado Rockies.

"He could have easily gone out there and not given up a hit today. He had that kind of stuff," Rockies starter Shawn Estes said. "Hats off to him. He pitched a great game."

At Pittsburgh, Stynes hit a hard grounder into the hole between first and second base and Jose Hernandez could only knock it down, unable to make a throw. Hernandez said bench coach Jim Riggleman had told him to move a few steps toward second base moments earlier.

"I looked at the scoreboard and said, 'Hey, that's the first hit,' Alvarez said. "I just want to get my job done and we win the game."

Alvarez threw 85 pitches and struck out five over seven innings in his first start since a 12-3 loss at San Francisco last Sept. 28.

"If they want me in the bullpen, I'll do it. I just want to win," he said.

Hernandez homered twice and had three hits and three RBIs for the Dodgers, who got their second shutout this season.

"He threw a good ballgame, but we just didn't swing the bats at all," McClendon said. "It wasn't much of an effort on our part."

Oliver Perez (2-1) struck out eight in eight innings in the loss, Pittsburgh's fourth straight.

Cubs 11, Rockies 0

The Rockies had no answer for Zambrano, who allowed only four baserunners and improved his ERA to 2.18 - lowest among the Cubs' heralded starters.

"I felt good today," Zambrano said. "I tried to let them put the ball in play, and that's what happened."

Matt Holliday had a two-out single between short and third in the fifth inning for the Rockies' first hit. Aaron Miles had the other.

"This kid is electric," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said of Zambrano. "He overpowered us today. There's no doubt about that."

Corey Patterson drove in four runs, and Sammy Sosa and Ramon Martinez each had two hits and two RBIs.

Estes (4-2) gave up a season-high nine runs and seven hits in just 2 1-3 innings.

Giants 6, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, Kirk Rueter (1-3) gave up three hits in eight innings, walked none and hit an RBI double in a four-run eighth.

Barry Bonds was intentionally walked in the seventh, but Pedro Feliz followed with a homer off Cory Lidle (2-2) to break a scoreless tie.

Marlins 3, Padres 1

At Miami, Mike Lowell homered twice to back Carl Pavano (3-1), who allowed one run and four hits in eight innings. Armando Benitez pitched the ninth for his 12th save.

San Diego had two players ejected, including starting pitcher Jake Peavy (2-2) after he hit Pavano with a pitch with two outs in the seventh.

Expos 4, Cardinals 2

At Montreal, Brad Wilkerson and Termel Sledge hit two-run homers in the first inning, and Sun-woo Kim (2-0) allowed one run and seven hits in six innings. Rocky Biddle pitched the ninth for his sixth save.

Matt Morris (3-3) gave up all four runs and seven hits in six innings.

Brewers 7, Mets 5

At New York, Keith Ginter and Lyle Overbay homered off Tom Glavine (4-2) during a four-run third inning, and pinch-hitter Ben Grieve also connected for Milwaukee.

Doug Davis (2-2) allowed two runs and six hits in 6 2-3 innings as the Brewers won for just the second time in seven games.

New York's four-game winning streak ended.

Astros 5, Braves 3

At Atlanta, Jeff Kent hit a two-run homer and a solo shot to back Tim Redding (1-3), who allowed one run and four hits in six innings.

Houston won for the eighth time in nine games and has the NL's best record at 19-10.

John Thomson (2-2) gave up five runs and 10 hits in 6 1-3 innings for Atlanta, which lost its season-high third in a row.

Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 1

At Phoenix, Vicente Padilla (1-4) earned his first victory of the season and Jim Thome hit his 10th homer to lead Philadelphia over Randy Johnson and Arizona.

Padilla allowed one run—Stve Finley's homer—on five hits in six innings. Billy Wagner pitched a perfect

ninth for his eighth save.

Johnson (3-3) was pulled by manager Bob Brenly after striking out 10 in 6 1-3 innings despite throwing just 99 pitches.

Red Sox 7, Royals 6

At Boston, Mark Bellhorn tied the score with a two-run homer in the ninth inning and pinch-hitter Jason Varitek doubled home the winning run, leading the Boston Red Sox over the Kansas City Royals.

Mike MacDougal (0-1) walked Johnny Damon leading off the ninth, and Bellhorn homered. Scott Sullivan relieved and Varitek doubled, with Ramirez barely beating the relay throw.

Mike Timlin (2-1) pitched a hitless ninth for the win.

Blue Jays 5, White Sox 4

At Toronto, Reed Johnson hit a game-winning RBI single in the ninth inning and Terry Adams (3-1) pitched the ninth for the win.

Orlando Hudson and Eric Hinske each hit two-run homers for Toronto.

Cliff Politte (0-1) was the loser.

Tigers 8, Rangers 7

At Arlington, Texas, Ivan Rodriguez hit the tiebreaking homer for Detroit in his return to Texas.

After Fernando Vina's one-out infield single in the eighth off Erasmo Ramirez (1-2), Rodriguez, who also played against the Rangers when he was with Florida last season, homered off Jeff Nelson. It was his fifth homer of the season.

Carlos Guillen went 3-for-4, including a three-run homer and an RBI triple, as the Tigers snapped a four-game losing streak.

Orioles 3, Indians 2

At Baltimore, Larry Bigbie, in a 3-for-19 slide, led off the 10th inning with the third game-ending homer this season off Chad Durbin (2-3). Rafael Palmeiro also homered for the Orioles, who won for only the fourth time in 11 games.

Jorge Julio (1-0), the sixth Baltimore pitcher, worked the 10th for the win.

Angels 1, Devil Rays 0

At Anaheim, California, John Lackey pitched a three-hitter to outduel Mark Hendrickson and David Eckstein had an RBI single to help Anaheim extend its winning streak to seven games.

Lackey (3-3) went the distance for the fourth time in 57 career starts, striking out three and walking one. He threw 107 pitches, 73 for strikes in his third shutout.

Hendrickson (1-3) allowed a run and seven hits in seven innings, striking out five and walking one.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Wilson Alvarez delivers a sixth-inning pitch en route to a one-hit shutout of the Pittsburgh Pirates on Friday, May 7, 2004, in Pittsburgh.

Mariners 6, Yankees 2

At Seattle, Edgar Martinez hit a two-run homer and drove in two more runs with his 500th career double, leading Seattle over New York.

Martinez received a loud standing ovation as he stood at second in the first inning after he became the 39th player since 1900 to hit 500 doubles.

Ryan Franklin (2-2) pitched into the seventh inning, and he looked good much of the night

in front of the largest crowd in Safeco Field history—46,491.

New York's Jon Lieber (1-1) made his second start of the year after missing last season following Tommy John surgery. He allowed six runs and nine hits in six innings, with two strikeouts and a wild pitch that gave up a run.

Athletics 11, Twins 9, 13 innings

At Oakland, California, Eric Byrnes hit a two-run homer in

the 13th inning to give Oakland the win.

The A's snapped an eight-game losing streak to Minnesota and won their first extra-inning game this year. There were 504 total pitches thrown in a game that lasted 4 hours, 53 minutes.

Byrnes hit his first career game-ending homer to left off Terry Mulholland (0-1), who pitched 3 2-3 innings for the loss.

Chad Bradford (2-1), the A's sixth pitcher used, worked three innings for the win.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA PLAYOFFS

Detroit 95, New Jersey 80, Detroit leads series 2-0

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	11	.621	-
New York	16	13	.552	2
Baltimore	14	12	.538	2 1-2
Toronto	11	18	.379	7
Tampa Bay	9	19	.321	8 1-2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Chicago	17	11	.607	-
Minnesota	16	12	.571	1
Detroit	14	15	.483	3 1-2
Cleveland	12	16	.429	5
Kansas City	8	19	.296	8 1-2

WEST DIVISION

Anaheim	20	10	.667	-
Texas	18	11	.621	1 1-2
Oakland	14	15	.483	5 1-2
Seattle	12	17	.414	7 1-2

Yesterday's Games

Boston 7, Kansas City 6

Toronto 5, Chicago White Sox 4

Detroit 8, Texas 7

Baltimore 3, Cleveland 2, 10 innings

Anaheim 1, Tampa Bay 0

Seattle 6, N.Y. Yankees 2

Oakland 11, Minnesota 9, 13 innings

National League Standings

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST DIVISION

Florida	17	12	.586	-
Philadelphia	13	14	.481	3
Atlanta	13	15	.464	3 1/2
New York	13	16	.448	4
Montreal	9	21	.300	8 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Houston	19	10	.655	-
---------	----	----	------	---

Chicago 17 12 .586 2

Cincinnati 15 14 .517 4

St. Louis 15 15 .500 4 1/2

Milwaukee 14 15 .483 5

Pittsburgh 12 15 .444 6

WEST DIVISION

Los Angeles 18 10 .643 -

San Diego 18 12 .600 1

San Francisco 13 17 .433 6

Arizona 12 16 .429 6

Colorado 12 16 .429 6

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 11, Colorado 0

Montreal 4, St. Louis 2

Los Angeles 4, Pittsburgh 0

Milwaukee 7, N.Y. Mets 5

San Francisco 6, Cincinnati 1

Houston 5, Atlanta 3

Florida 3, San Diego 1

Philadelphia 4, Arizona 1

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB

CHICAGO WHITE SOX-Activated INF Jose Valentin from the 15-day DL. Sent INF Kelly Dransfeldt outright to Charlotte of the IL.

CLEVELAND INDIANS-Activated RHP Jose Jimenez from the 15-day DL. Optioned RHP Kazuhito Tadano to Buffalo of the IL.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS-Agreed to terms with SS Angel Berroa on a four-year contract extension, through 2008.

CHICAGO CUBS-Recalled INF Damian Jackson from Iowa of the PCL. Transferred RHP Mark Prior from the 15- to the 60-day DL.

NEW YORK METS-Activated 3B Ty Wigginton from the 15-day DL. Sent OF Jeff Duncan to Norfolk of the IL.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES-Recalled OF Jason Bay from Nashville of the PCL and reinstated him from the 15-day DL. Optioned INF Carlos Rivera

to Nashville.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS-Optioned RHP David Aardsma to Fresno of the PCL.

NBA

ATLANTA HAWKS-Fired Terry Stotts, coach.

NEW ORLEANS HORNETS-Fired Tim Floyd, coach.

WNBA

MINNESOTA LYNX-Signed F Stacey Lovelace-Tolbert.

NFL

DETROIT LIONS-Signed WR Tim Van Zant. Released WR James Williams and G Greg Walker.

NEW YORK GIANTS-Signed QB Jared Lorenzen, RB Chris Douglas, RB Keylon Kincaide, FB Edgar Cervantes, WR Chris Davis, WR Andrae Thurman, TE Beau Fullerton, DE Khaleed Vaughn, LB T.J. Hollowell, LB Levi Madarieta, LB Jim Maxwell, LB Lewis Moore, LB Robert Peace, CB Curtis DeLoatch, CB Dewitt Ellerbee, CB Charles Jones and P Mark Gould.

COLLEGE

COE-Named Steve Staker defensive coordinator.

FARMINGDALE STATE-Announced the addition of women's lacrosse, beginning with the 2004-05 season.

HUNTINGDON-Named Mike Turk football coach.

PROVIDENCE-Announced junior F Ryan Gomes has declared himself eligible for the 2004 NBA Draft.

ST. JOHN'S N.Y.-Named Fred Quartlebaum and Jose Martin men's assistant basketball coaches.

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE-Named Joe Vogel director of athletics.

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

Tinian takes limelight



By **MARK RABAGO**
REPORTER

For a change, Saipan had to take a backseat to Tinian as a lot of sports activities went down on the island as part of its San Jose Fiesta celebrations. Ultimate fighting made its CNMI debut on April 30 when Guam and Saipan fighters locked hands, arms, and legs in the Fury Fighting Islands event. The next day, canoe racing transpired off the waters of Taga beach with the Saipan Outrig-

ger Club dominating the race. Over at the Broadway Motocross Track, the dust were swirling and the sound of revving engines filled the air as the San Jose Motocross Challenge went underway.

Back on Saipan, the Mobil co-ed league wound up its elimination round, while the 2004 BANMI Budweiser Cup began its playoff round. In baseball, the Yankees grabbed sole possession of first place in the Saipan Major League after it beat the Brewers, 11-9, Wednesday.

The Budweiser canoe slices through the water with the Tinian shoreline on the background.

JOEY C. CHARFAUROS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Casino Kings finished the season on a high note beating the Club TDHC organizing committee.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Club TDHC basketball committee did a terrific job organizing the tournament this year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Allied Forces settled for fourth place after losing the battle for third against F&B Chef.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Defending Champions F&B Chef lost the championship but settled for third place nonetheless.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Express won Game 1 but surrendered the last two games to Rooms Matrix and had to settle for the runner-up trophy of the 4th Annual Club TDHC Inter-department Basketball League.



The San Jose Fiesta got a taste of rugged motocross action Saturday and Sunday at the Broadway Motocross Track.

BRAD E. RUSZALA



Oi'Aces II's Shawn Odoshi is hemmed in by a triple-team of Toyota Oi'Aces I in their Bud Cup game Monday. Oi'Aces I won 91-73.

MARK RABAGO

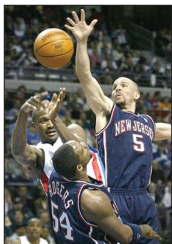
Two fighters in the Fury Fighting Islands go at it inside the cage last April 30.

BRAD E. RUSZALA



APC Brothers scoring machine Freddie Peliseman drives hard to the hoop in the team's 115-78 win over Lebwell Monday in the 2004 BANMI Budweiser Cup.

MARK RABAGO



Pistons stop Nets 95-80 to lead series 2-0

The Detroit Pistons showed New Jersey they can do more than just play defense.

33

Saipan Tribune Sports

Tinian takes limelight

For a change, Saipan had to take a backseat to Tinian as a lot of sports activities went down on the island as part of its San Jose Fiesta celebrations.

35



36 SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Aloha Saipan

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

Sports as we know it is never going to be the same again once Bill and Jean Sakovich finally move to Hawaii at the end of this month.

For the better part of the past 30 years, the Sakovichs have had their hands in almost all sports activities that have come down in the Commonwealth.

Tomorrow afternoon Jean will board a plane and fly to her old hometown, while Bill will stay until the end of the month and tie loose ends, most notably breaking in the new coach for the Saipan Swim Club.

The Kan Pacific Swimming Pool was not even on the drawing board, the revival of the Micronesian Games was just a dream, and the medals and trophies won by the SSC were years away when Bill and Jean decided to make Saipan their home in 1973.

"At first we figured we'd stay for two years. It was so much different then. For instance, there was nothing between Chalan Kanoa and Garapan — literally nothing. But we fell in love with the islands and stayed," said Jean.

Bill always loved the idea of going overseas and prior to his Bank of Hawaii assignment on Saipan he had been to Indonesia and Morocco as part of the Peace Corps.

"We came here with an open mind and we fit right in," said Bill.

At first, Bill and Jean got into sailing for recreation but after a few months got involved in other aquatic sports that eventually led them to establish the Saipan Swim Club in 1974.

It was the start of a sports program unequalled until today in the sheer number of medals, trophies, and accolades brought in from regional and even international events.

But to the Sakovichs the medals were always just great souvenirs, and constantly reminded their wards that it was not the winning that's really important but how you battled and if you've done your best.

"The sad part is if you go to any competition, people ask 'did you win a medal?' If you didn't win a medal then you're a failure. But that's not true, the important thing is how you competed and if you did your best time," said Bill.

The two also said that they get the most satisfaction in seeing the children they coached in swimming grow up to become solid citizens.

"The most rewarding is seeing the SSC kids achieve and go off to school and grow up. It's always nice to have all the medals and the recognition and all that stuff but the best reward was to know that someone like Mike Villagomez went to NCAA came back and is now doing a great job teaching. My son, Jon, is coaching, my daughter is also doing fine. Our other former swimmers are also doing great in their own right. That's the most rewarding and that's all we really wanted," Bill added.

Asked what part of Saipan they would miss once they relocate to Hilo, the couple supplied varied answers — from the people, to the sites, to the many activities they participated during the three-plus decades they lived on the island.

"I'm really going to miss my



The couple with Larry Lee after getting a Red Cross plaque of recognition during the 2004 Tagaman awards banquet.

friends and just about everybody that worked with us. But I'm also going to miss the views — these lagoon views on this green little island are really breathtaking and will be hard to leave behind," said Jean.

She said among the sites she would probably miss the most is the northern part of Saipan. Jean said Marpi has always been a sort of refuge for her, a release area, and a church

where she could kiss all the worries of the world goodbye.

Her husband shares the same sentiment.

But for Bill, he would be leaving the Commonwealth with one big regret—and that's being unable to steer the CNMI toward the Olympic movement.

And his frustration further multiplied when island nations he helped get into the movement—the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau—were later admitted to the Olympics ahead of the CNMI.

Although, Bill is more than happy with FSM and Palau's success he finds it ironic that he would be spending the next couple of years working as a consultant of the swimming programs of these countries with money he originally sought out for the CNMI's own swimming program.

"As we get farther behind, these islands are getting ahead because they get all the support from the Olympic organization."

Save for that disappointment, by and large, the Sakovichs would treasure the years they spent living on Saipan and will forever consider the Commonwealth their home.

In fact, going back to that kind of living weighed heavily on the minds of the Sakovichs when they were deciding where to relocate.

"There would always be trade-offs, obviously. We like the island living. We could've come back to Oahu, which is a big city like Guam. But we don't want that, that's why we're moving to Hilo, which is much like Saipan," he said.

They may be moving to Hawaii but for people of the CNMI, the Sakovichs would always remain residents of Saipan.



Even with his secretary general duties Bill still found time to coach the CNMI in swimming in last year's South Pacific Games in Suva, Fiji.

Bill and Jean Sakovich made Saipan home sweet home the last 30 years.

